



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 4th November 2022

Dear Parents,

I am always amazed by the level of enthusiasm in CCCS amongst the pupils. Madame Loyer and Madame Williams have been organising the French Challenge. Boys are asked to do something associated with a French-speaking country whether that be cooking something, singing a song in French or making some local craft. The challenge is entirely voluntary and yet, each year, there are numerous wonderful entries which have clearly been the subject of great effort. The bravest boys then film what they have been doing and Mme Loyer puts snapshots of the projects and videos together to produce a presentation which is shown in Assembly. It is, for me, one of the highlights of the year. Bravo, mes élèves! The deadline for these challenges is on Monday so I hope that you have a suitably Gallic weekend. A similar enthusiasm was evident when Mrs Ponsford launched an initiative this week for pupil librarians. Pupils can apply for the position by filing out a form which asks them about their motivation and what sort of tasks they would like. She tells me there has been a great deal of interest. I look forward very much to seeing how this initiative affects reading in the School.

We already have a very healthy culture of reading. I have been giving mock interviews to our boys in Form 7 who have interviews at Abingdon next week. One of the things I always ask is what they have read recently. I cannot recall the last time someone from CCCS has not been able to talk with enthusiasm about a book they have been reading in their spare time or about something that they have covered in their English lessons. I had a wonderful discussion with one of our boys this week, which showed real insight about Shakespeare's play, Macbeth. I believe absolutely in the importance of reading; there is no activity outside the classroom which does more to develop a pupil's mind. Those who read can think; those who read have active imaginations, those who read write well and those who read express themselves with sophistication – almost inevitably. It is unsurprising that the greatest treasure in Ancient Alexandria was the library, and indeed, here at Oxford, there are few people who wouldn't agree that at the heart of the University lies a library – the Bodleian. I remember when I was at prep school watching Peter Schaffer's play, the Royal Hunt of the Sun, about the Spanish Conquistadors' arrival in Peru. The Spaniards under Pizarro meet the Emperor Atahualpa. They read the bible to him. The Emperor, who has never seen a book before, can see that that it speaks to the Spaniard but he does not understand how. He takes the bible from the Spaniard and puts it up to his ear, hoping to hear it speak. Few things have ever summed up for me so vividly the magical quality of books.

Next Saturday it is our Open Morning and, in the afternoon, Chorister for a Day. If you have a boy in the Prep School, please remember that they will be needed in school between 9.30 am and 12.00 noon. Please look out for more details of the exact timings. If you know of anyone who might be interested in the School please encourage them to register for the Open morning. Furthermore, do please think about whether your son or anyone you know might be interested in a Cathedral Choristership. A Cathedral Choristership is a wonderful opportunity in so many ways, having life-long benefits. If any of you are interested in exploring this option, please let Mrs Kemp know and come along to the afternoon next Saturday. It should be a most enjoyable afternoon.

I am delighted to let you know that we have been joined by two new members of the cleaning staff, Raimonta Michalari and Tina Lawrence. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to the School and to commend the cleaning staff for the invaluable work that they do for us behind the scenes. I suspect we take it for granted that the place is clean but I know how much effort it really takes. In terms of cleanliness, we also heard today that our kitchens have retained their five star rating following an unannounced visitation from the Oxford City Environmental Health Officer – I am delighted that this is the case and wish also to commend our splendid kitchen staff run so ably by Mr Kilby, who continues to provide us with so many delicious and nourishing meals.

I am so struck by the delightfulness of our pupils. I was working in my study the other day when there was a knock at the door. A boy appeared. "How are you, Sir?" "Well thank you," I responded. I continued: "How can I help?" "Oh you can't really, thank you. I didn't want to do much other than to say hello and wish you a good journey home. Good bye!" and off he went. As it happens, he could not have done more.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2022
Monday 7th - Sunday 13th November

MONDAY 7	
a.m.	Primary Mathematics Challenge (Forms 5 & 6)
3.00 - 5.00	Nursery Parents' Meeting (Nursery)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
TUESDAY 8	
2.15	Rugby U9 v MCS (Home)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 9	
	Flu Immunisations
	Swimming (Forms 3 & 4)
2.30	Rugby U13 A & B v Cokethorpe (Home)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.30 - 6.30	Form 3 Parents' Meeting (SchoolCloud)
THURSDAY 10	
8.45	Form 8 Assembly
FRIDAY 11	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker The Very Revd Richard Peers, Sub Dean of Christ Church CC: IN
SATURDAY 12	
9.30 - 12.00	Open Morning. Prep School boys to be in school for this event.
2.30 - 7.00	Be a Chorister for an Afternoon
SUNDAY 13	
	<i>Remembrance Sunday</i> <i>The Twenty-Second SUNDAY After Trinity</i> <i>The Second SUNDAY before Advent</i> <i>University Sixth Week</i>
5.45	WC: Remembrance Sunday Service (Worcester College)



Remembrance Day Poppies

We have Poppy Pins on sale in the School Office
for £1 each. NN



Thanks for donating £463.65 GBP to
Purpose of Life

Charity News

Our Pre-Prep Harvest Festival raised £463.65
for Pakistan Flood Aid, one of our school charities.
Thank you to everybody for your generosity. NN



French Challenge 2022

The deadline for entries is fast approaching
- it is Monday 7th November. SL



Lost and Found



Thomas Xia, Form 3, has lost his tracksuit top.

Please could parents make sure that all school clothes
are clearly named.



We hear of quite a few lost items of clothing 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

Sports News

Before half term, our Forms 7 & 8 boys played a Rugby match against Bruern Abbey school. Both teams played brilliantly and showed huge amounts of skill and bravery.



This week, our Forms 3 & 4 boys travelled to Abingdon Prep School for a Rugby Festival. All our teams were competitive and boasted some hard-fought wins throughout the afternoon. NH



Pre-Prep News



A huge thank you to Mr Mirko, from the Nursery children, for the great care and hard work that he puts in on a daily basis to keep our garden looking so beautiful. NE

Nursery and Reception sat together for Storytime today, to hear a lovely book being read all about fireworks. We then got to light our very own sparklers in the Nursery garden before enjoying Music and Movement in the Walton Hall. Miss Farmer put Handel's Firework music on and we danced, twirled and leapt like little fireworks in time to the music. NE



Form I News

Form I spent last half term learning all about superheroes: heroes from history, environmental heroes helping to save the world, and 'every day' heroes keeping us safe and making a difference in the world. We have also created our own superhero characters and learnt how to write in 'super sentences'. We had a Superhero Theme Day to celebrate a wonderful first half term. We dressed up as superheroes, went on interactive superhero missions, shared superhero stories, and even wrote and performed our own special superhero song, an original take on David Bowie's classic song 'Heroes'. Last, but not least, we went on a 'Superhero Bootcamp', learning how to dodge, block, climb, shoot webs, and to fly like a superhero. I think we may have taught some of the boys a little too well though - as the photos demonstrate. At CCCS we can actually teach children how to fly! TR





A Boys' Prep School with Co-ed Nursery



WHOLE SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

Saturday 12th November 2022

9.30 am - 12.00 noon

To register, contact: registrar@cccs.org.uk

www.cccs.org.uk 01865 242561

3 Brewer Street, Oxford OX1 1QW



**Christ Church
Cathedral School, Oxford**



A Boys' Prep School with co-ed Nursery



Saturday 12th November, 2.30 - 7.00 pm

To register, contact registrar@cccs.org.uk

Open to boys in current Years 2, 3, 4 & 5

Generous scholarships available

01865 242561 www.cccs.org.uk

3 Brewer Street, Oxford OX1 1QW



**NATIONAL SCHOOLS
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**

SSO courses are BACK THIS APRIL
including the inaugural NSSO Big Band!

When? 1st - 8th April 2023
Where? Malvern College, UK
Who? Ages 8 - 17
What Standard? Three orchestras & Big Band
Grades 3 - Diploma +

A generous bursary scheme is available!

Join us for a week of exciting music making, inspiration, fun, games and sports
in a magical venue.

Queries: hello@nssso.org
Applications:

NSSO.org

[illegible]

Life Skills Club



Thursday's Life Skills Club benefited from Mr Robson's expertise when it came to learning how to present ourselves as proper gentlemen and achieve the perfect shave - lots of foam but no blades were used!

The boys then spent the rest of the time learning how to get the best shine on their shoes. Special thanks go to Martin who, as a chorister, has weekly shoe polishing practice.

Next week we will be baking scones! KS & AE-W



Music News



I'm delighted that lots of boys have been playing in school Class Concerts over the past few weeks. These are regular, informal events held during Music lessons where pupils can bring in their current pieces to share with others.



It's always a great opportunity to build boys' performing confidence and to try out new things - as well as support each other! Well done all.

We had two wonderful pieces of news about orchestral successes at Half Term. Ian Z heard that he has been awarded a place in the National Children's Orchestra after auditioning on the double bass. The NCO is the UK's premier ensemble for musical children and I am delighted that Ian's hard work and talent has been recognised in this way. Martin D was accepted onto a Grade 7+ Brass Day run by the English Symphony Orchestra, which is also a considerable achievement given that most participants were much older children.

Both boys have done brilliantly to represent CCCS at a national level, and should be very proud. SB



Boarding House News

Last Sunday, we formally welcomed Patrick, Ian and Eaton into the Cathedral Choir. During a special ceremony in the Cathedral, the Sub Dean officially installed the boys as full choristers and they each received their silver choir medals. Following the service, chorister parents hosted a wonderful event in school to mark the occasion. It is something of a tradition that the boys have a cake, complete with marzipan effigies. The main question is always, whether to devour the figures or preserve them! JR



Form 3 News

Form 3 have entered the magical world of the BFG this term. We have discovered buckets of whoppsy-whiffling words, described the witching hour, designed our own disgusting vegetables, created gruesome giants and made our own magical glowing dream jars.

We even persuaded Mr Murray to eat a scrumdiddlyumptious snozzcumber! SG



CCCS Barber

To book appointments you can either message: 07748 105192 or email: andreachrisostomou@yahoo.com

Men's haircut £17.50, Students £15.00, Clipper cut £10, Beard trim £5, Over 65s £13.50, Under 16s £13.50

Meet and Greet Jue Gao - Parent of Carl and Lucas

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? I had a head packed full of strange ideas when I was a child. I thought I would be a Scientist to create something small but imaginative and valuable. After being a mum, I left my over ten-year legal career and started my family role. I kept reading and buying books for my kids. Then I set up a Chinese-English library. I also volunteered at the local city library, community nursery and primary school as a lecturer, storyteller and after-school club teacher.

Two years ago, part of my work in China paused. I became a full-time University student, and my teaching work with Chinese students moved online. I also volunteer in Old Marston Library for the children's reading club and am a ministry teacher at the Oxford Chinese Gospel Church. With the arrival of my over-eight thousand Chinese books recently, I will set up a Chinese children's library.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? Jasper, in Canada. I visited the city four years ago. Since I have been looking after my younger son, I have missed the glaciers and the auroras. It is said that what you've missed is always the best. I want to get there for the best.

Who is your idol, and why? I don't have an idol, but I always try to learn from others around me. My parents greatly affected my attitude to life. My father started playing the piano in his sixties, and my mother learned to swim at over fifty five. They are still doing these now.

There is a lot I have learnt from the teachers at CCCS. From Mme Loyer, who introduced the road safety rules to me - life skills are as essential as academic knowledge. From Miss Kat, who explained her experience of helping children misbehave. From Miss Biddell, who advised me how to encourage children at their first show. I also learnt how to be creative to get children involved, from Mrs Merriman and how to be organized in school events from Miss Farmer, how to be patient with children from Mrs Ahluwalia. Mr Murray's writings in the Newsletters constantly update my thinking about education through little things.

I also learnt from other parents. Jenny, who helped the Chinese community connect. Dominic, who is active and responsive in school activities. Tzen, Gebmi, and Amanda, who are always warm hearts to help other parents.

Favourite city or town and in which season? Beijing in autumn is the best season, covered with yellow ginkgo leaves and red maple leaves. It is attractive.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? If I could do something, I would help every child to get various affordable educational resources of good quality. There are still hundreds of millions of children who are out of school. Children as refugees, girls and low-income households are missing out on education worldwide.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? Working with parents is a habit in my family. My father worked as the assistant to my grandfather when they did the smithcraft. I always sat beside my father with a carpenter's plane while he was making furniture. I am proud to have my two sons as teaching assistants when I teach in Mandarin School and Sunday School. Carl helps me set up the laptop and electric facilities. Lucas collects handouts and homework.

Favourite Book? I love books, whether they are academic books from my legal and management background or children's books from my reading experience with kids. My memorial book is Stories of 'Stupid' Kids, which I read at primary school. It is about the childhoods of lots of great people, how childhood affects people and how adults could learn from children.

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be? I want to learn to sail and explore an open world in the ocean. With wind, peace and freedom in nature, it would be a different life experience from living on the land. But I must overcome my fear of water when I learn to sail.

Any advice on how you relax at the weekend? Hiking is my favourite way to relax, especially in a forest area. We have the 24-solar system in Chinese culture, to describe natural changes during different solar days. When you hike in a woodland setting, you can feel the changes in plants and animals, plus the connection between humans and nature, which also helps you relax and better understand human behaviour. We are not separated, we are part of nature. So do not pen yourself in your house - go hiking to a natural place to relax.

It is hard to believe that so much goodness exists in one person. You'll recognise Jue, as in rain, hail or snow, Jue will be cycling along the Abingdon Road with a huge, warm smile, rain beating down hard and she still manages the big friendly wave, accompanying the boys to school. Creating a Chinese-English library is such a fantastic idea and they are enormously lucky to have you at the helm. It is hard to comprehend how difficult it can be, blending cultures, but you can't beat a book to be the universal saviour of breaking down barriers. I really enjoyed reading that you have Carl and Lucas working already, we need to give Carl a work phone that we can all call him on, 24/7, with our IT problems as I have heard he is very good. You've inspired me to cycle on the roads, but don't get me wrong, it doesn't come naturally, I lack the finesse and ability to do the big wave like you as my two hands firmly cling on for dear life, but nothing like having someone to look up to. Thank you Jue, we are lucky as a school community to have you.

Have a lovely weekend,
Kathryn