



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents,

Unsurprisingly, today has been a day focussed upon the death of Her Late Majesty The Queen. I thought it would be good if I gave you a picture of the day. In the morning, the Prep School held an Assembly in the William Walton Hall, named after the School's famous Old Boy whose music featured in the Late Queen's coronation in 1953. I spoke briefly about the extraordinary nature of the moment, that it was the end of the longest reign in British history, numbering 70 years and 214 days.

Given the universal sadness at her Late Majesty's death, it was particularly important that we, as members of a Royal Foundation, whose Cathedral was a building well known by the Late Queen, should take care to honour her properly. Though it was indeed a day of sadness, it was also a day of celebration for a long and happy reign culminating in a glorious Platinum Jubilee. It was poignant that at the time that the Late Queen's death was announced, double rainbows filled the skies over Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. Finally, I reminded the boys of the fact that it was the first full day of the reign of King Charles III, a day when he was both taking on the role for which his whole life has prepared him, while he was having to come to terms with the loss of his mother.

We then practised the beautiful hymn 'Abide with Me' which we were to sing later.

At about 1.45 pm the whole School, including Nursery, set off for the Cathedral. It was the first time this year we had been to the Cathedral and for many their first time ever. We walked in complete silence moving at a steady pace across the Quad, dividing in two columns around Mercury, the fountain in the centre of the Quad.

We began by singing 'Abide with Me'. It was an extremely moving sound, especially given our practice earlier. Our New Deputy Head, Mrs Fairhurst, read Psalm 23, words which we know the late Queen believed with great conviction.

I then spoke to the whole School. There were many who would be feeling very sad at the death of so beloved a sovereign but in her own words "Grief is the price we pay for love." There was so much that was admirable about the Late Queen - her dedication to her subjects, the sense of stability and decency which she manifested, her influence through quiet dignity. During her reign, Elizabeth had 15 Prime Ministers, from Winston Churchill, who had been the premier during the World War II, to Liz Truss whom she appointed a mere three days ago.

I then focussed upon Her Late Majesty's warmth and personal touch and spoke about how, when we went with the Cathedral Choristers to sing to her at St James's Palace, she had received the flowers presented to her by the youngest chorister with radiance as if it was the first time this had ever occurred. She also had a wonderful sense of fun, made clear by the clip of her having tea with Paddington Bear. "Happy Jubilee Ma'am," he had said, "and thank you (a slight pause) for everything." The Queen responded simply, "That's very kind." The Late Queen had been shown kindness throughout her life and one of her greatest achievements was to be universally loved.

In her famous speech at Cape Town when she was 21 the Late Queen said "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service." We know with gratitude that her life was very long and her reign correspondingly so but we know with greater certainty that she did indeed devote her life to the service of her people. In her letter written only a few months ago at the beginning of her Platinum Year, which she signed, "Your Servant, Elizabeth R." she had written: "And when, in the fullness of time, my son Charles becomes King, I know you will give him and his wife Camilla the same support that you have given me;"

That time has now come and it would therefore have been the Late Queen's dearest wish that we celebrate the accession of her son, Charles III, so we say boldly "God save the King!"

William Smyth from Form 7 then played brilliantly, the slow movement of Haydn's stunning trumpet Concerto, the poignant notes hanging in the air of the Cathedral. Following this, The Chaplain said Prayers for the Late Queen and for King Charles. Miss Farmer, Head of Pre Prep, and the Chaplain, The Revd Philippa White, then walked to the altar and placed flowers upon it as a mark of respect from the School. At the same time Ms Biddell played a beautiful arrangement of Nimrod from Elgar's Enigma Variations. After the blessing we sang the first verse of the National Anthem using, for the first time in 70 years, the words "God save the King."

This was a day of great significance for this country and for the world. The boys acted throughout the day with dignity and respect, qualities which were a fitting tribute to the Monarch whose life we were celebrating.

It was a privilege to be here at the School today with your sons and daughters. They were a credit to you all. May I wish you a restful and reflective weekend.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Trinity 2022

Monday 12th - Sunday 18th September

MONDAY 12	
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
TUESDAY 13	
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
5.00 - 6.15	CC: Rehearsal (Chapter Parlour)
WEDNESDAY 14	<i>Holy Cross Day</i>
	Swimming begins (Forms 3 & 4)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tag Rugby (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
4.45 - 5.45	After School Chess club (Forms 5 & 5) tbc
THURSDAY 15	
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
6.00	CC: Evensong
FRIDAY 16	
	Oxford University Open Day - expect heavy traffic
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker The Chaplain
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tag Rugby Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 17	
SUNDAY 18	<i>The Fourteenth SUNDAY After Trinity</i>



CCCS Minibus

For boys in Forms 3 - 8, we operate a morning and afternoon minibus service.



The cost is: Bus run one way, £240 per term. Bus run both ways, £355 per term.

If you would like your son to be brought to and from school in our minibus, please contact us:

schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk

Greek Club

This is open to those in Forms 7 & 8 who are interested in learning ancient Greek. At present Greek Club is on Mondays at 4.00 - 5.00 pm.

Please do let Mr Richards know if your son is interested: richards.n@cccs.org.uk NR

Swimming and Games

Games for Forms 5 - 8 have begun. As it is Rugby season, full Games kit, Games socks, trainers, Rugby boots and mouth guards are required for each Games session.

Swimming for Forms 3 and 4 begins on Wednesday 14th September. Boys need blue trunks, a cloth swimming hat, goggles, towel and small waterproof rucksack to carry everything in. Thank you. ADM

Form 6 Assembly

Form 6 Assembly – The Fibonacci Sequence - Monday 4th July 2022

On the last week of Trinity Term, Form 6 performed their morning assembly on “The Fibonacci Sequence”. Initially we were introduced to Fibonacci (James M), who showed us how he introduced Indo-Arabic numbers into Europe. We were then shown his eponymous sequence by way of each boy holding up the numbers in the sequence with Fibonacci again appearing, showing us how each successive number in the sequence is created.

We were shown how this sequence is manifest in the world about us, with different pupils giving us different examples. Thomas told us how the sequence is seen in the spacing of the joints of the fingers and hand, with Ethan and William illustrating this in the spirals on the pine cone and the pineapple. Isaac told us how it is found in the spirals in the centre of a sunflower before Jason and Max finished with the different flowers that have petals from the sequence, such as the Black Eyed Susan with 13 petals, the Field Daisy with 34 and the Sunflower with 55 and 89.

Boys in the Assembly were also asked whether they could name numbers after 55 in the sequence - which they successfully accomplished.

All the Form 6 boys finished by coming together to show us a final, fascinating, example. This being the generations of the male honeybee, which, owing to the male honeybee being produced by an unfertilised egg, results in the numbers in each successive generation being numbers in the Fibonacci sequence.

Sener completed the Assembly with a prayer, which asked us to bring to mind how wonderful the natural world is about us and to treat it with care, compassion and respect so that it may be preserved, in all its beauty, for all of us on Earth and for future generations to come.

Parents, staff and pupils watching found the Assembly interesting, enlightening and thought provoking.

Well done (former) Form 6. AB



Music News



It's been wonderful to welcome boys back this week, and to hear the School come alive with instruments playing and voices singing.

At the very end of last term we held two very busy days of Trinity music exams, and I would like to thank the peripatetic staff and boys for making these such a success. I was delighted that our results included 9 Distinctions and 13 Merits, with three of the Distinctions awarded for Grade 8 exams: a towering achievement for any boy of Prep School age.

Many, many congratulations are due to Merlin, Hamish and Maurits.

Individual music lessons have restarted this week and boys have been reminded to check the timetables by the practice rooms so that they know when their sessions will be.

Please do remind your son to check if he hasn't done so already! If you think your son might be interested in learning a new instrument at school, please fill in an Instrumental Lessons Request Form (available from the School Office) or contact me at: biddell.s@cccs.org.uk if you would like more information.

Wishing everyone a very happy, musical, Michaelmas Term! SB

Boarding House News



At the beginning of a new academic year, we are always delighted to welcome our new Probationary Choristers into the Cathedral Choir and Boarding House.

The boys have already made such a great impression on us all and we very much look forward to introducing them to all the wonderful things the Chorister life brings with it. JR



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



Porthole to Another World

Saturday 17th September 2022

Bands & DJs **Community Bar & Food** **Cinema**

Spoken Word & History Talks **Dog Show**

Arts, Crafts, Dance and Children's Workshops

11am - 7.30pm, Aristotle Lane Recreation Ground



www.oxfordcanalheritage.org/oxford-canal-festival-2022

UKMT

The UKMT – Junior Mathematical Challenge (JMC) – 2022 (The National Maths Competition for Years 7 and 8).

Last term, CCCS was one of 4,400 schools which took part in a nationwide competition for Mathematics, aimed at Years 7 and 8. It is called the Junior Mathematical Challenge and it allows boys in this school to see how their Maths ability compares with pupils in the rest of the country.

This week the JMC Award Certificates were handed out by the Headmaster and Mr Bagnall, Head of Maths, to all of our award winners.

The following boys received a Bronze Certificate. A Bronze Certificate is awarded to those pupils who achieved within the top 40% in the country.



Form 8:

Maurits, Nishan, Benjie,
Aidan, Pascal, James.

Form 7:

Thomas, Kit, Florian.

The following boys achieved a Silver Certificate. A Silver Certificate is awarded to those pupils who achieved within the top 19% in the country.



Form 7:

Zachariah, Eren, Tom.

The following boys achieved a Gold Certificate. A Gold Certificate is awarded to those pupils who achieved within the top 6% in the country. A high achievement indeed. So, very well done to...



Form 8:

Lawrence, Ivan, Alexander,
Giovanni, Sebastian, Henry.

Form 7:

Yourui.

Form 5:

Franklin.

UKMT continued...

The Best in Year Group and Best in School awards were:

Best in Year 7 went to Yourui

Best in Year 8 and Best in School award went to Ivan

Very well done to all the JMC Certificate winners.

The Junior Kangaroo and Junior Olympiad (the follow-on rounds of the Junior Maths Challenge)

Of the eight Gold Award winners of the Junior Mathematics Challenge, five boys achieved high enough scores to get through to the Junior Kangaroo Challenge, which is only achieved by the top 3% in the country. They were:



Form 8:

Henry, Sebastian, Alexander.

Year 7:

Yourui.

Form 5:

Franklin.

In this round all five of our boys achieved a Kangaroo Merit Award, placing them in the top 2% of the country. Very well done to all of them – a fantastic achievement!

Finally, one boy achieved a score that got him through to the Junior Olympiad which is only achieved by the top 1% in the country. This was Ivan who will receive notification of how he did later in the year. An excellent achievement indeed. Very well done to one and all. AB



Meet and Greet

Name: James Farmer - Teacher of English and Drama Enthusiast

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? I always wanted to be an archaeologist, the type that went exploring in mysterious places and found lost cities and mysterious tombs. I became a teacher, which in some ways is similar (they are both academic) in others not!

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I would go to Macchu Picchu, because it is perhaps the greatest of the "lost" cities, and it is very far away and I have never been there.

Who is your idol, and why? I admire people who can flourish in adversity. One of my favourite people is the Roman General Scipio, who brought Rome back from the edge of destruction to defeat Carthage. For the same kind of reasons I admire Abraham Lincoln and Winston Churchill.

Favourite city or town and in which season? Rome in springtime.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? I would wish for easier international travel, instead of the increasingly closed border world we appear to be living in.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? I am a very light sleeper like several members of my family. I envy people who almost cannot be woken if they are sleeping - I can be woken with a light tap on the arm.

Favourite Book? The Histories of Herodotus.

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 have a seagoing cruiser with engines (not sails) that would give me further ease of travelling. I don't mind flying but I don't want to learn to fly.

Any advice on how you relax on the weekend? Do something you really enjoy and eat well. If you don't do anything at the weekend it passes very quickly!

I really think that if you ever consider a change of career, you would be an ideal Seafarer. You could travel by sea for months, maybe even discovering new underwater mysterious places. If you are really keen, you can boat your way into Lima and begin the trek to Cusco to the start of the Inca Trail. I can recommend the four-day trek - although I wasn't aware there was a train that also takes you to the site. Top tip - always know where the nearest Banyo is and carry a packet full of Coca Leaves.

I agree with you in terms of your flourishing in adversity point. The Roman General, Scipio, was very young to be in a position to have to be so courageous and brave (no technology or life coach) but your role as a teacher throws small instances like that of Scipio at you. Without a doubt, you show us all how to rise above it. I am sure, that by educating, nurturing and encouraging, this alone, can be a remedy that keeps us back from the edge of destruction. Thank you Mr Farmer!

Kathryn
PA