



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 14th October 2022

Dear Parents,

I told the pupils earlier this week about an experience which I had when I was a pupil at senior school. Occasionally, I would listen to Radio 3 and, one beautiful summer's evening, after a particularly busy day, I switched on the radio to find myself listening to a piece of music which I did not know, but which I found amongst the most ravishing that I had heard. I happened to have an old-fashioned cassette recorder which I thought was very modern at the time. I immediately switched it on and recorded the music. I was desperate to know what it was. It suddenly occurred to me that one of our teachers was a well-known music critic so I ran across the sun-dappled playing fields to seek his counsel. When I arrived, he was intrigued and placed the cassette in his elaborate sound system. He switched it on and quickly began to nod knowingly. He identified it as the final movement of the Fifth Symphony by the Anglo-Welsh composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. From that day forward I have loved his music.

I mention this because this Wednesday was the 150th Anniversary of Vaughan Williams' birth. He is, in my estimation, one of the most important 20th Century composers and so the anniversary of his birth is certainly worth celebrating. But there is a particular reason why it is of such significance to a choir school. Alongside nine symphonies and many other significant works, Vaughan Williams wrote a vast number of songs. He particularly enjoyed travelling around the English countryside with the purpose of collecting folk tunes which many of the older villagers remembered from their youth. He would then turn those melodies into hymn tunes often named after the places where he had heard the tunes. Particularly well known is his tune written to be sung to the words of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" called Forest Green, named after a village near where he lived in Surrey, while over the border in Sussex is Kingsfold a village where he heard one of the most beguiling tunes which he named after the village; it is set to the words "I heard the voice of Jesus say." Not only are some of our greatest hymns written by him but many folk tunes which would otherwise have fallen into obscurity, have been saved by his careful noting of them. In 1906 he produced the English Hymnal, one of the most significant hymn books compiled in England, which serves as the source for many of the hymns and carol tunes which we still love today. He wrote many works for choirs too, including "O taste and see how gracious the Lord is, heart-stopping in its simplicity." It was composed for Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation and was also sung at her funeral last month. The repertoire of any choir has been profoundly influenced by this remarkable man.

Vaughan Williams, despite being in his forties, volunteered to fight in WWI. He became an ambulance driver on the Front. This experience affected him profoundly and partly explains his love of the English countryside which his music so brilliantly evokes. Little wonder then, particularly in another time of uncertainty, that his music is today very popular. His haunting piece for violin, The Lark Ascending, has taken the top place on the Classic FM Hall of Fame for the last eight years.

We were fortunate to have as our preacher this morning, the inspirational Maths teacher from St Edward's, Henry Chitsenga. He certainly woke the boys up by getting them to repeat the word Amen very loudly right at the start. He quoted St Matthew's words "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." In every interaction, Mr Chitsenga told us, one sees God. No wonder that he speaks with such inspiration. The pupils all duly thanked him after the service. One of the boys looked at him and said "Thank you Sir; that was the best service ever!" Given the number of services that particular boy attends per week, that is certainly saying something!



I am delighted to let you know that Mr Potts, our sports teacher, has a baby son Ezra Ronnie Charlton Potts who was born on Tuesday. Both he and his mother are well. We wish Mr Potts and his family all the very best and look forward to meeting Ezra in due course.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2022

Monday 17th - Sunday 23rd October

MONDAY 17	
3.30 - 4.30	Form 5 & 6 Visit to Cotswold Wildlife Park
4.00 - 5.00	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
	No After School Football Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
TUESDAY 18	<i>Luke The Evangelist</i>
4.00 - 5.00	No After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
6.00	CC: St Frideswide Civic Service
WEDNESDAY 19	
	Swimming (Forms 3 & 4)
2.00	Pre-Prep Harvest Festival (Cathedral) Parking available on the Broad Walk
2.15	Rugby U13 A v Bruern Abbey (Home)
	Rugby U13 B v Bruern Abbey (Away)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.00 - 5.00	No After School Tag Rugby (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
	Half Term begins (return 31.10.22)
	CC: Half Term begins after school. Boys required for services from 19.10.22 until 30.10.22 incl.
THURSDAY 20	
FRIDAY 21	
SATURDAY 22	
SUNDAY 23	<i>The Eighteenth SUNDAY After Trinity</i> <i>University Third Week</i>

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:



Lost and Found

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



French Challenge 2022



Are you ready for our French Challenge 2022? Our pupils have until Monday 7th November to submit their French Challenge entry. We've suggested some categories below, but we are always open to new initiatives! Why don't you ask your child what he/she is planning to do?

Pre-Prep Children:

Can you design a French monument in Lego, building blocks or wooden sticks? Could you share a few facts about your monument (in English) - its size, location, why you like it?

Prep Boys:

- **A French Bake-off** - Choose a recipe, follow it and present it in French. Photos/videos needed. (We'll happily taste a sample too)
- **Lights, Camera, Action** - Choose a scene from a sitcom or a film and re-enact it in French. Why don't you do the French voice-over?
- **Holiday Adventure** - Become a holiday ambassador! Design a five-day tour around a country or region of your choice, in French obviously.
- **Ancient Tales** - Research and choose a folk tale, myth or fable from another culture. How will you present it in French?
- **Science Experiment** - Choose a Science experiment and make a presentation, with all the props
- **Sing It Your Way** - Choose one of your favourite songs and rewrite it in French. Or, why don't you sing a famous French song with your friends?
- **Game Player** - Choose a traditional Game from another culture, or make up your own game, where participants are required to play in French
- **Programming** - If you are into computers and/or games, you may already know about Scratch, Kodu and/or Microbit. Can your characters speak French on Minecraft?
- **Other** - You can create your own task, whether it involves drama, art, Lego models... the choice is yours!

Mme Loyer and Mme Williams.

Form 2 News



Form 2 boys used hammers to extract natural dyes and hand-drills to drill holes through the conkers during their outdoor lesson on Wednesday.

To begin with, following the Anglo-Saxon's ways, the boys dyed fabric bunting, using leaves and flower petals. Afterwards, they made conker necklaces. EF



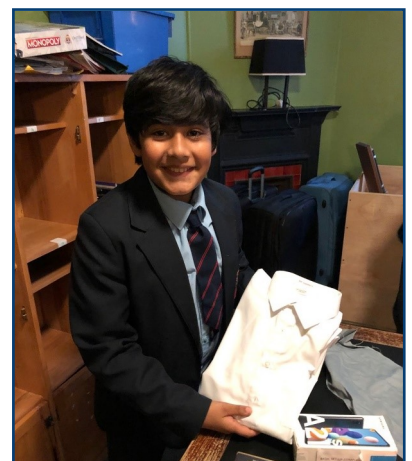
Pre-Prep News

Reception and Form 1 have had lots of fun at our Woodland School talking about Autumn and the Harvest Festival. The children used their imaginations to create a combine harvester out of tyres, logs and other materials from the wood. We had a musical time as we sang harvest songs with gusto whilst riding in our new vehicle. TR



Life Skills Club

This week in Life Skills Club the boys practiced ironing. They 'warmed up' on handkerchiefs before moving on to school shirts. They also sewed on buttons. James replaced the lost button from his blazer. KS and AW



Sports News

Wednesday 12th October – U10 & U11 Rugby Fixtures v MCS

CCCS U10 A

This was a very balanced and competitive match in which tries were initially scored alternately between the two teams.

The two main coaching points for the players of both teams were to spread out across the pitch to allow the passing to work, and to support the player with the ball. Indeed, the passing was good and so was the support, which allowed CCCS to score on a number of occasions.

Harshadeep was the first to take the game to MCS and scored a few times in the match as did Milan - both boys showing deft escape and evasion skills. Mingzi and Patrick also got on the scoresheet with good tries too. There was determined tackling by all but especially Hugo and Eaton. This prevented the opponents from scoring when close to the try line.

CCCS came out as the winners of a closely-fought match. Overall, what was really noticeable was the full-on commitment and determination of all the CCCS team players. Well done boys! AB

Music News



There has been lots of excitement in school about the bassoon and oboe recently, two of the rarest instruments taught at CCCS. I am delighted that our new bassoon teacher, Mrs Watson, was able to give a demonstration of this fantastic instrument to Forms 2, 3 and 4 this week, performing excerpts from 'Peter and the Wolf' as well as playing a mind-boggling trick with a rubber glove! The boys in Double Reed Ensemble have been working hard too, and our team of oboists is already making a very promising sound. Last but not least, it was impressive to see Henry (bassoon) and Patrick (oboe) making a visit to Form 2 to talk about double reed instruments and how they work.

There are never enough bassoons or oboes at any senior school, and both are wonderful instruments with utterly unique sounds and personalities. If you think your son might be interested in having lessons on either one, please contact biddell.s@cccs.org.uk to arrange a session with Mrs Watson or Miss Mogridge. SB



CCCS Barber



To book appointments in school you can either message:

07748 105192 or email: andreachrisostomou@yahoo.com

Prices: Men's haircut £17.50, Students £15.00, Clipper cut £10, Beard trim £5,

Over 65s £13.50, Under 16s £13.50



Chess Club News



Concentration, Handling adversity, Emotional stability, Strategic thinking and Solving problems are just some of the life skills developed by the boys attending After School Chess Club. The club runs from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm on Wednesdays for boys in Form 2, and at the same time on Mondays for boys in Forms 3 and 4. All levels are welcome, although it is best for absolute beginners to start at the beginning of Michaelmas Term. Sessions are a mix of taught skills and playing practice, and puzzle sheets are available for skill testing between sessions.

The possibility of a later session on Wednesdays for boys in Forms 5 and 6 is under consideration.



For Form 2, the aim is to ensure a thorough understanding of the basics of the game and to ensure that by the end of the year the boys are able to play meaningful games with the minimum of illegal moves.

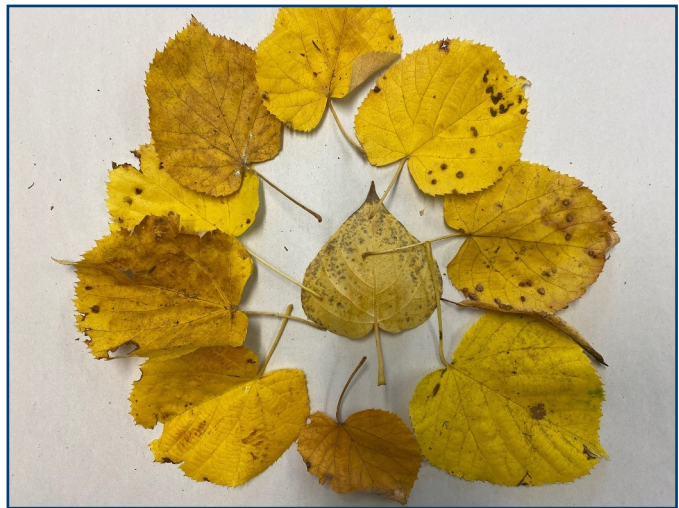
For Forms 3 and 4, the aim of Michaelmas Term is to bring the boys to a standard that enables them to take part in a national competition known as the UK Chess Challenge. The initial in-school round of this competition runs throughout Hilary Term. The achievement of target points scores during the term is recognised through a series of small awards. Trinity Term provides further skill development

The overall aim for all boys, however, is to instil a love of chess and enjoyment of the challenges of the game. RD

Art News



Form 3 have been looking at Andy Goldsworthy in Art this term and enthusiastically creating patterns, inspired by his work, out of leaves. EE



Meet and Greet

Mr Harrison - Deputy Head Pastoral, CCCS

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? I really wanted to be a fireman; I loved the idea of saving people and climbing up trees to rescue little cats. I am currently Deputy Head Pastoral at CCCS.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I would go back to Argentina. I travelled around there about 10 years ago and I still dream of the amazing steak and red wine.

Who is your idol, and why? Growing up it was Jonny Wilkinson, I am a keen rugby player and I remember watching him kick the drop goal that won England the World Cup in 2003. These days I prefer a slower pace of game and love the way Rory McIlroy approaches the game of golf.

Favourite city or town and in which season? This has to be Winchester in the summer. The combination of independent restaurants and bars, mixed with beautiful countryside, makes for the perfect summer weekend.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? I wish that for every negative news story they print, the newspapers would have to print a positive story, as there is also a lot of good going on in the world that we never hear about.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? Watching Harry Potter for the hundredth time when feeling under the weather.

Favourite Book? *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* - Charlie Mackesy

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 be in an a cappella band; I'm not the greatest singer but I do love a musical - and a sing-a-long.

Any advice on how you relax at the weekend? I begin my weekend by walking to a nearby cafe for breakfast by the river with my wife. I think it's always good to try and get some golf in at some point too, I find my mind tends to clear completely whilst I'm playing and all I can do is focus on the next shot. I find this a very mindful activity and try to play as much as I can. Finally, I would end with a takeaway and a good film, not forgetting some late-night chocolate before the week begins again...

I am guessing you quickly realised that you had to be ok with heights among other things, at least you can rest assured that children are the best grounding you can get - and maybe if there were a few more trees in the playground you would really come into your own! We should have a hat handy, just in case. You will have to get your hands on the Happy News! It is filled with good news stories <https://thehappynewspaper.com/?v=79cba1185463>. Emily Coxhead noticed the same thing - Golf! A great game for some time out, or with a group. Did you know legend has it that the reason for 18 holes is that a bottle of whisky contained the same number of shots as holes on a course, thus providing just enough drink for a shot on each hole, might be best kept as a legend... You're at the right school for singing, we are really lucky to have such talented boys in the choirs and they do a wonderful job of showing us how it is done, plus making you feel like you too can sing! I am sure you can sing but, if anything, you will be closer to doing that band in only a few months.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kathryn