



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 23rd September 2022

Dear Parents,

For me, the year begins in September. To my mind, 1st January seems merely a date in the diary separating one short dark day from another. But I suspect I am in the minority. Since the age of three, my life has been spent associated with institutions which begin their year in September and end it in July. I suppose in some ways this is counter intuitive. My new year begins and almost immediately the descent into winter occurs; the air becomes cooler, the leaves begin to turn and the vegetation begins to wither. And yet, in my mind, with the cooler weather comes the call for action, a stiffening of the sinews. Gone now are the languorous days of summer where weeks can sometimes blend into one another and instead we settle down to begin a new year of school, a new Form, new syllabuses and above all the excitement of new challenges. I find this time of year exhilarating.

And already, some of our boys have risen to a challenge. Mr Potts, our football coach, took Form 3 to a Football tournament at Summer Fields where there were a large number of teams. Most of the schools we were playing infinitely outnumbered us in the number of pupils they could select their teams from. Nonetheless, in the first stages we won three out of four of our matches which led us to the knock-out phase. We drew with the school we played but sadly we lost on the resulting penalties. What an amazing start for a group of boys who had played so little with one another. What a group of heroes. Look out Oxfordshire schools!

Mr Harrison, the New Deputy Head Pastoral, and I have had a meeting with Kathryn Croxson, the Head of the PA. We are hatching a number of interesting ideas about events which we are hoping to host during the course of the year. May I take this opportunity to blow the trumpet of the PA. The PA works tirelessly to help raise money for the School in order that it can enhance its facilities. The play equipment in both our playgrounds was paid for by the PA for instance, a very visible sign of its assistance. Furthermore it is an organisation which puts on a number of social events throughout the year, something which adds greatly to the life of the School. We will be in touch very soon about events which are being planned.

In so many ways, the beginning of this week seems a very long time ago. The nation, and indeed the world, was taken up with remembering the late Queen. I, along with a very large crowd, attended a service of remembrance for the late Queen at Christ Church Cathedral. The Lord Lieutenant, the King's representative in Oxfordshire attended, as did the High Sherriff, our former pupil, Mark Beard, and the Chancellor of Oxford University, Chris Patten. The Cathedral Choir, who had only been singing again in the Cathedral for three days, performed magnificently. Rarely can there have been more pressure upon a group of young boys. They should feel very proud of what they achieved. Another highlight of the service was a reading of the poem written by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage to mark the late Queen's death. Six faith leaders from the faith communities of Oxford read the poem, each one reading a few lines. The poem begins with the touching lines: "Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon." The death of the late Queen does still seem impossible to comprehend - she had an air of immortality - one did almost believe that the evening would never come. He later reflects poignantly that "The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands, hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight." a line which the Bishop of Oxford, The Rt Revd Stephen Croft, who was giving the sermon, reflected upon movingly. Throughout her reign, the late Queen lent the nation a sense of great stability and we will miss it hugely.

At Pre-Prep Assembly this morning, we were told about the many things that children had learnt during the course of the week. I learnt that Anglo Saxons kept animals in their houses. Other than cats, dogs, hamsters and goldfish, I had not heard before of people in England sharing their houses with animals. So, having complimented them on the many things they had learnt, I asked who else might have learnt something this week, wondering if they might identify me as that person. One of the boys immediately put up his hand and said "Mr Robards!" Despite having been here for less than two weeks, Mr Robards, our new Form 1 teacher, was completely unphased by this and laughed heartily. I must compliment Mr Robards and the other new teachers upon the positive way in which they have launched themselves into their new lives at CCCS. We are very fortunate in the commitment, experience and talents which they have brought to the School. One of the wonderful things about being a teacher is that there is always something more to learn. No wonder we always stay young!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2022

Monday 26th September - Sunday 2nd October

MONDAY 26	
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 27	
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 28	
a.m.	Form 2 to Cogges Manor Farm
9.30 - 11.30	Stay & Play (Nursery)
	Swimming (Forms 3 & 4)
2.30	U11 & U10 Rugby v Chandlings (Away)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tag Rugby (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
THURSDAY 29	<i>Michael and All Angels</i>
	Languages Day
3.15	Rugby U9 v APS (Home)
3.15	Rugby U8 v APS (Away)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
FRIDAY 30	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker the Headmaster
	Inter-House Cross Country - Postponed
1.30 - 3.00	Open Afternoon for Pre-Prep (Woodland School, weather permitting)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tag Rugby Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
	GRADES CC: IN
SATURDAY 1	
	CC: Afternoon departure for evening concert at Badminton House
SUNDAY 2	<i>The Sixteenth SUNDAY After Trinity</i>

Brewer Street Closure

Many of you may have seen a sign on Brewer Street announcing that the road will be closed for a two-week period. We have been in touch with the Council who have told us that they are planning to resurface the road.

Apparently, this should not take more than one day and they are planning to do this on the **11th October**. We will get in touch with you when we have received confirmation of the date and we will provide details of our plans for reaching the School at the time.

FLORAL TRIBUTE BY SIMON ARMITAGE

*Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon,
Limes and oaks in their last green flush, pearled in September mist.
I have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of thanks,
Zones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.
A promise made and kept for life - that was your gift -
Because of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,
Each shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.
The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,
Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.*

*Evening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.
Lily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower
Interlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained
Zeal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence
A silent bell disguising a singular voice. A blurred new day
Breaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and
Everything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,
This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness
Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.*

The poem is a double acrostic i.e. the first letter of each line spells out an important word, in this case Elizabeth.

Languages Day - Thursday 29th September



In order to celebrate Languages Day next week, we'll be asking boys who have holidayed in France, where in the country they have visited.

Please could you remind your children of towns or places of interest that they have visited in France. We are hoping to create a visual display, summarising how well travelled, around France, CCCS pupils are. Merci! SL

Form 7 visit Reading and Silchester Museum



Yesterday, Form 7, with Mrs Schiller and Mr Richards, ably driven by Mirko, visited Reading Museum, in particular the Silchester Gallery. Here are displayed many of the artefacts found in the Roman town of Silchester - Calleva Atrebatum as it was known to Roman Britons: a once flourishing Roman town that, after the end of Roman rule, was never built over and now sits in happy obscurity in the wooded Hampshire countryside. This was the second time the School has visited the gallery, and we were fortunate to have the same member of the museum staff, Guja Bandini,

who energetically explained the museum's wonderful model of the town and was clearly pleased by the boys' pertinent and perceptive questions; and she then let us handle artefacts, including smart and imitation Samian Ware, a mortar, a strigil, and one of the million oyster shells found in the town, whose emptied shells were used to make lime. We also had time to see the famous Silchester eagle and the Silchester horse, play Roman draughts and dress up in tunic and birrus Britannicus.



Then to Silchester, where we walked the northern half of the one-and-a-half-mile circuit of walls, built in the late 3rd Century, and the most substantial Roman walls in Britain – which makes all the more striking the hundred-acre emptiness of the interior, where sheep and goat safely graze, unaware of the Roman business below the pleasant green. Outside the walls is the elliptical amphitheatre, where once 7000-odd watched... well, who knows? Read Chapter 5 of *The Eagle of the Ninth* for the sort of thing they may have seen. We enjoyed the miming of a bear hunt and a few gladiatorial duels. Plus the blackberries, which the boys found to be tasty and abundant this year. NR

Pre-Prep News



Reception and Form 1 made the most of the Autumn sunshine and enjoyed creating some wonderful natural artwork. We shared the story of *The Green Man* and discussed the textures, colours, and patterns that can be found on the trees in the wood.

All the children had great fun making colourful representations of *The Green Man's* face, using bark rubbings. TR





Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford

Independent Day School for Boys 3 - 13 & Girls 3 - 5, Flexi-Boarding for Boys 8 - 13

Pre-Prep Open Events 'Out of this World'



***A Journey into Space
Stay & Play***

Open Morning for
Pre-School children on

**Wednesday 28th September
9.30 – 11.30 am**

An expedition to our Woodland School

Open Afternoon for Pre-Prep children on
Friday 30th September 2.00 – 3.30 pm

Our Open Events are a great way to meet other local parents with children of the same age and enjoy a coffee with our teachers. Come along to see for yourself why our Pre-Prep classrooms are so special.

To register: registrar@cccs.org.uk | 01865 242561

www.cccs.org.uk | 3 Brewer Street, Oxford OX1 1QW

Find us by bike or on foot. Parking is also available.



Team Building at Youlbury Scout Camp

Forms 5 and 6 enjoyed their first trip of the year, spending the day at Youlbury Scout Camp, an amazing area which is right on our doorstep.

The boys bonded as they faced their fears on the zip wire, enjoyed cooking their own snacks on a wild fire and aspired to becoming new William Tells - working on their archery skills. SL



Reception - Sound of the Day

Today's sound was 'H'. We made **H**attie the **H**ibernating **H**edgehog bread. The children could be heard **h**aving fun as they packed up their **h**edgehogs to take **h**ome. RF



Sports News

On Thursday afternoon, our U8 Football team travelled to Summer Fields Annual Football Tournament. A very well organised and well supported afternoon saw us compete in a competition of 30 teams, split across 6 groups.

Before our first game the boys were reunited with Mr D! After that excitement, we discussed the fact that the afternoon was a chance to enjoy some football fixtures while putting into practice the skills we had learnt last year, and in clubs this year, in match situations.

We had a very successful group stage, winning three games (v New College 2-0, MCS 1-0 and Upton House 2-0). We lost one game (v Eton House the Manor 0-1). This meant that we qualified for the knockout section, finishing second in our group.

We went on to play Papplewick in the quarter finals and, unfortunately, we lost on penalties after a very tight 0-0 game.

Overall, our boys should be very proud of themselves - they played some excellent football, displaying fantastic team spirit.

Reaching the last eight against some much bigger schools is a fantastic achievement. SP



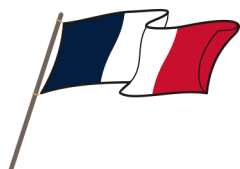


Charity News

I am running the London Marathon to raise funds for the Oxford Hospitals Charity, if you would like to make a donation the link is below.

Many thanks in advance. Mr Potts.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Steve-Potts-London22>

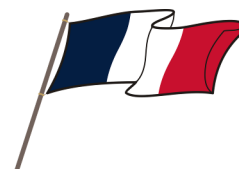


French Immersion Trip - July 2023

Immersion Trip to France - "Have fun and improve your French!"

Dates: 10th -14th July 2023 Cost: Around £550.00.

Open to boys in Forms 5, 6 and 7 as a priority - then to Form 8 boys, depending on numbers.



We are delighted to be launching a full immersion trip to Normandy, France next July. We will be staying at Le Château de la Baudonnière, which is an ancient château with 100 acres of woodland, boasting a lake, an orchard, a farm and stables.

I would be grateful if you could contact schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk before 30th September, should you wish to book a place for your son on this trip. SL



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



Forms 3 & 4 Swimming

Please could all boys bring swimming trunks, swimming hat and goggles, and come to school in their tracksuits with non-sports socks. Thankyou. ADM



Abandoned Bicycles

These bicycles were left at school over the Summer holidays. If they are not claimed by half term, they will be disposed of. NN

Lost Clothing

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



Meet and Greet Roman Fußthaler - Parent of Arthur

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? When I grew up I wanted to become a professional Snowboarder. Snowboarding had just begun at the time and all previous generations were Skiers. As teenagers we thought it was the coolest thing ever and, of course, so different to what our parents used to do. The feeling of making a living whilst feeling total freedom on a mountain was very tempting. Turns out if you want to make it to the top, being a rebellious teenager doesn't really help. Starting to train as a gymnast at an early age, full dedication and hard work, however, does. Food for thought...

Now I have the privilege of running a diverse team of amazing people. We create high end retail interiors. If you happen to shop, for example, in the food halls of a famous Knightsbridge department store or in a flagship store of an iconic British luxury brand, you will find that we have made those environments. It is a fast paced, small niche industry but I find it very rewarding, as on the day when it opens to the public it is very exciting. It combines many different professions and is all about project management.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I would travel to Fernando do Noronha, an archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean off Brazil's north east coast. It is a natural reserve. The islands contain the most stunning nature you can find anywhere in the world, besides arguably the most beautiful beaches. Compared to where I grew up, it is so very different and probably my definition of an exotic paradise. Life there is the absolute opposite of a busy and hectic London business day. Just the thought of being in Fernando relaxes me already. I would like my kids, Adele and Arthur, to also experience it at some point.

Who is your idol, and why? Any everyday decent person who is kind and open-minded.

Favourite city or town and in which season? Anywhere with family and/or friends. I enjoy a sunny day in any season. I travel quite a bit and count myself lucky to have been in many cities and places already. I believe we are all blessed to be here in Oxford.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? The extreme polarisation of rich and poor in the world. I believe the key to a peaceful and sustainable society is the opposite. The most ambitious people should stick to good common values - then they always know what to do in any situation.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? In the mornings, my wife and I take turns to prepare hot drinks and bring them up to the bedroom. Then our kids wake up and come to our bed for hot chocolate whilst we enjoy the morning coffee. Time for a cuddle and good conversations! Mornings are slow for me and I need to take my time. We will, however, need to get a bigger bed soon...

Favourite Book? I like to read biographies. I am interested in how humans who make a difference think, and approach life. Where do they come from, what did they go through, how did they end up where they are...?

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be? I regularly go swimming in the Oxford University Pool before an office day. I do love, however, an open water swim. Before my friends and I had families/kids we used to travel to many Austrian lakes to swim in them. I would love to swim in all of them and tick them off my list, eventually - but would need some serious time as there are over 300.

Any advice on how you relax at the weekend? I like to cook at the weekend and ever since our kids were able to, they have joined in. I relax whilst we prepare the food together and certainly enjoy eating it together. Think of it whatever you like, however I am not going to lie... we do have matching aprons.

I have always been wooed by a high end interior fit-out, without a doubt it adds to the entire consumer experience and definitely makes their delicious lobster tortellini taste even better. I am really envious of your slow mornings, I haven't known these for about 10 years, but your ritual is missing a vital trick (minus some health and safety issues). It is to teach the children how to make coffee, and while they are getting busy at the kettle, get into a snow angel position... doesn't leave much room for extras. Chef's hat off to you for having the patience and stamina to cook alongside your children. I learnt early on, that asking children to measure flour is generally the wrong task, albeit educational. Stirring works much better. You sound very tolerant and forgiving, a lovely way to begin a new week ahead. I wonder if your wild swimming helps keep you on an even keel, to be honest I (we all) need as much advice as possible on how to get to Sunday and still be able to match aprons, which are really just an extension of matching Christmas jumpers - there's a time and a place for it all. Perhaps, I need to launch myself in a body of really cold water and hope that I will come out of it, almightily more Romanesque.

Thank you so much Roman.

Enjoy your weekend,

Kathryn