



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 30th September 2022

Dear Parents,

As many of you may have heard, one of the greatest novelists of our age, Hilary Mantel, died suddenly last week. She was most famous for her trilogy about the life of the controversial Tudor Statesman, Thomas Cromwell. Uniquely, two of the three novels, *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies*, won the Booker Prize.

The genius of Mantel's work seems to me to lie in two areas. Firstly, her evocation of the middle years of the reign of Henry VIII is breathtakingly vivid. Her immersion in this world seems complete and her understanding of the characters and their minds, as well as the extraordinary understanding of the details of every day life, never cease to weave their magic. She always said that it took a few months to readjust to the 21st Century once she had finished writing the books.

Secondly I believe that Mantel's portrayal of Cromwell is one of the finest portraits in modern literature. As one reads the novels it is impossible not to feel real sympathy for him – no mean feat given that for most historians, and indeed in the common imagination, Cromwell does not have a good press. Mantel's understanding that sometimes compromise, the application of common sense and an acceptance of the inevitable is far less damaging than the dogged devotion to uncompromising principle, is very striking. To persuade a reader to view a character and an era from a completely different perspective is an extraordinary feat on the part of a novelist.

Much of *Wolf Hall* also gives us a generally positive portrait of Thomas Wolsey, the founder of Cardinal College from which Christ Church was born. Mantel said of Wolsey in an interview: "I love Wolsey because he enjoyed it all so much. I know all the reasons for thinking badly of him but I can never be quite persuaded. And I absolutely understand why you'd be enamoured by him. And also he seems to me to have been a man with a heart and I can quite understand Cromwell's long loyalty to him." If one looks at the portrait in the Great Hall at Christ Church, with its evident signs of good living, one can appreciate what she means! If you haven't read these works I could not recommend them more highly.

I think education should teach one to be open to looking at things from different perspectives – open-mindedness is one of the greatest qualities that an education can encourage. I am completely committed to it as a core characteristic of the education which we provide at Christ Church. Next week I will be attending the joint IAPS (Independent Association of Prep Schools) / HMC (Headmasters' and Headmistresses Conference.) The conference is entitled: "Enlightened Education" and I look forward very much to reporting back to you next week about some of the enlightening ideas that will be shared.

We should always ask questions about the purpose of education, how we can make it more effective and about how we should adapt it to suit the needs of the modern world. Conferences such as the one next week are sources of enlightenment and inspiration, I believe it is of fundamental importance that one's views and theories are challenged.

The Oxfordshire County Council's consultation about traffic filters has been extended to 13th October. If you wish to make a submission please do so here: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/traffic-filters-2022>. The County Council is also running what it calls an online "engagement event" on Tuesday 4th October 6.00 – 7.30 pm, it may be worth attending this. Details are to be found here: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/traffic-filters-2022>. I think it is important that the Council should hear what people think about their proposals given that they will affect some people's routines significantly.

One of our pupils has been away recently. He arrived back full of delight at his return. "It's lovely to see you!" I said, "I hope you are better." "Mr Murray," he responded, "It brings sun to my heart to see you again." I don't think I have ever succeeded before in producing such a miracle but I will certainly attempt to repeat the process – though I suspect that miracles, by definition, are not supposed to be repeatable! Have a sunny weekend.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2022

Monday 3rd October - Sunday 9th October

MONDAY 3	
9.05	Form 6 Trip to Chedworth Roman Villa
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
4.30 - 6.30	Forms 3 & 4 Tutor Meetings (SchoolCloud)
TUESDAY 4	
2.15	Rugby U8 v MCS (Home) 3 x 5-a-side
4.00	CC: Beginning of Term photograph
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (VWH)
4.30 - 7.00	Form 5 Parents' Meeting (SchoolCloud)
WEDNESDAY 5	
	Swimming (Forms 3 & 4)
2.30	UI3A & B v The Dragon (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 6	
8.00 - 9.00	PC: Rehearsals begin (then every Tuesday and Thursday)
8.15	Individual School Photographs (VWH)
8.45 - 3.00	Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Space Explorer Day (Form 5)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
FRIDAY 7	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker tbc
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tag Rugby Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 8	
SUNDAY 9	<i>The Seventeenth SUNDAY After Trinity</i>
	<i>University First Week</i>
4.00 - 6.30	PC: Services Begin
4.00 - 6.30	WC: Services Begin
6.00	CC: Freshers' Evensong



Bikeability



We are delighted to be able to offer a Bikeability cycle training course (levels 1 and 2) in November/December and level 3 in April. If interested, please return the Registration Form to: schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk by **Monday 3rd October**. Thank you. SL

Music News



Boys in Forms 3 and 4 had a wonderful session with Mr Somerville on Monday, learning about the brass family (and in particular the trumpet, trombone and French horn). Mr Somerville explained how each one works, demonstrated their different techniques, and talked about how many of each instrument might be needed in a typical symphony orchestra.

These are all fantastic instruments and I hope we might see some new budding brass players starting lessons this year. SB



Nursery News

The Nursery children enjoyed a journey into space when they joined visitors to our Stay & Play event. We dressed as spacemen, made rockets, played in silver spaceships and our glittery playdough was very popular! NE



Bikes Needed for Refugees in Oxfordshire



Sanctuary Wheels is providing bikes, lights, locks and helmets for refugees across Oxfordshire. This includes, of course, the many hundreds of Ukrainian refugees now arriving in the county.



Sanctuary Wheels is a partnership between Cyclox, Active Oxfordshire and Asylum Welcome. By providing bikes and tuition, Sanctuary Wheels will enable refugees to explore their new surroundings, access essential services and will give them the freedom to take part in positive, healthy activity together.

If you have a bike that is no longer used and is still serviceable, please consider donating it. Women's bikes are particularly needed.

These bikes will then be refurbished, safety checked and given to refugees.

To donate a bike, please email Kathryn at honsec@cyclox.org. Thank you for your support.

Form 2 News



If you want to find out what it was like to be an Anglo-Saxon boy, you should ask Form 2 boys. They spent Wednesday at Cogges Manor Farm building shelters, baking flat breads on the open fire, learning to write runes, wearing tunics and capes and threshing wheat. Not to mention feeding the goats and stroking the chickens!

Thank you to Mirko for taking us there and to the wonderful staff at Cogges Manor Farm for making the day so special! EF



Reception and Form 1 News



Reception and Form 1 had a busy time at the Woodland School this week. We shared the story of 'Superworm', and the children made a colourful representation of their own 'Super Woodland Worm' using leaves, sticks, feathers, and materials from the wood. We then enjoyed a minibeast hunt and found lots of creatures living in our Woodland School, including snails, beetles, slugs, centipedes, earwigs, and even a real life super-long worm! TR



CCCS Barber

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

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





Languages Day

On Thursday, CCCS celebrated the importance of learning and speaking another language. Our Language Celebrations began with an Assembly filled with idioms, and concluded with the most famous Canon of all times - Frère Jaques!

Our Language Ambassadors thought about ten items they liked, then wrote descriptions in a foreign language. They spent the day answering questions, from their curious friends, who were trying to guess the words' meanings!

The boys loved eating the 'sablés bretons' for snacks and 'merguez and couscous' served at lunch time, not to mention the delicious 'tarte aux pommes'!

May we encourage parents to refresh their language skills and embark in a 'duolingo' journey, competing with their sons... SL

A huge thank you to all Form teachers who joined in with language celebrations in all sorts of fun ways throughout Languages Day. Had you been a fly on the wall in Form 1 you would have heard morning registration being taken in languages from around the globe (even Mongolian!) We enjoyed a cheery Spanish greetings song with lots of actions, followed by a reflective traditional Spanish tale. Meanwhile, Reception were busily looking at flags and making language balloons.

We all came together during Pre-Prep Assembly where we listened to "Schellen Ursli" a story about a boy who lives in the mountains of the Engadin in Switzerland and, with a little help from the language ambassadors, we sang and energetically danced the Gouzi-Gouzi (the Hokey Cokey) in French. AE



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



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.

Sports News

On Wednesday afternoon, our Forms 5 and 6 boys travelled to Chandlings Prep School for their first Rugby matches of the season. Throughout the morning, excitement was mounting as the boys made sure they had every bit of kit ready. We arrived ready to play, a quick change of footwear, and all the boys were on the pitch eager to start the game.

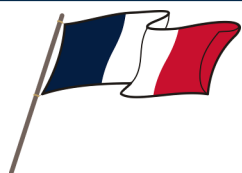
It was clear from the start that all the boys were up for the challenge ahead and ready to face anything Chandlings could throw at them. Tackling was excellent throughout, with the boys showing their commitment to the game. In attack, we showed excellent footwork and teamwork in supporting the player with the ball. Overall, it was a fantastic experience that we can now build on during our Games sessions, to get ready for the next challenge. NH

U11 notable performances: Henry, Troy, Splendour - U10 notable performances: Milan, Eaton, Hugo.

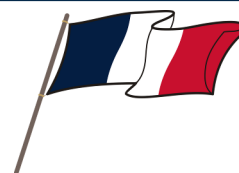


On Thursday afternoon, our Forms 3 and 4 boys played Abingdon Prep School for their first Rugby fixture of the season. On an afternoon where learning the skills and decision-making involved in Rugby were our main priorities, we can certainly feel very proud of our efforts. We were very pleased with the attitude, effort and determination showed by all the boys. NH

U9 notable performances: Samuel, Alex - U8 notable performances: Thomas, Barney, Périclès, Ted.



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 should you wish to book a place for your son on this trip. SL

Meet and Greet Steve Potts - Sport/Football Teacher

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? Football was always my life. I attended every Charlton Athletic game from the age of 2 - 17, as well as playing youth football and watching my father play/referee. So the dream was always to be a footballer. Unfortunately, that wasn't to be but coaching is certainly a very close second! I am lucky to have a job that I love and get to see the Next Generation of children fall in love with sport.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I would love to go to South Africa on safari. I am hoping that one day Mr Dickinson will take me and show me around! He always made it sound incredible and the pictures he showed me were amazing.

Who is your idol, and why? Would have to be David Beckham or Alan Curbishley. Beckham was possibly the greatest English footballer ever. I spent hours as a child trying to strike the ball like he did on set pieces and crosses. Curbishley is one of the greatest coaches in Charlton history and led us to our glory days in the Premier League.

Favourite city or town and in which season? I love New York, I hope to return soon to run the NYC Marathon. I feel it could be a PB opportunity, as leaving my wife alone in the shops would be very expensive. Every minute I ran faster would save me a fortune!!

One thing you would change in the world if you could? All children to have access to sport and coaching. I was fortunate to learn from some incredible coaches and would love all children from all backgrounds to have that opportunity.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? I can't sit still, something my daughter most definitely has too!

Favourite Book? I'm afraid to say I was never a reader, I do however love reading to Savannah, my daughter, and she loves any Disney story.

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 try skiing/snow boarding, I have never tried though, for fear of injuring myself!!

Any advice on how you relax at the weekend? I am the sort of crazy person who finds running really relaxing. I love going out for long runs early on Sunday mornings around the West Oxfordshire countryside. It's a great way to sort my thoughts and get my head straight.

Not being able to sit still is just the quality you want in a Sports teacher! I'm in awe of your ability to do another marathon with the knowledge of already knowing how hard it is - everything we want in our Sports teacher...UNSTOPPABLE.

What's not to love about Beckham? I can honestly say I haven't mastered bending it, but I have been known to nutmeg people (completely unskilled, and accidental). I love your thinking about the NY marathon - time is money! If you ever need some encouraging, the Americans know how to do it well. I have been delirious at the end of a run before, and imagined I have had to chase a baddie doing some thing bad, just so I can finish. Your selfless weekend running to clear the cobwebs is much more economical than a therapist, allowing your wife more spending money for your next PB run, clever. Coaching and encouraging children to love sport is more than a skill, it's a legacy that you have managed to engrain in hundreds of children - if only it was acceptable to make them run about for about 6 hours a day! Thank you for inspiring the children of the future, Mr Potts, and we wish you all the luck this weekend in the London Marathon, I hope the crowd carries you through the highs, and the lows.

You can sponsor Mr Potts in his awe-inspiring run: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Steve-Potts-London22>

Have a great weekend.

Kathryn
PA