



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 11th November 2022

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much to all the parents of Prep School boys who made it possible for your sons to be with us on Saturday morning for our Open Morning. I know that this commitment means that they miss all sorts of activities – nonetheless it is very important for us as a school. Thanks to your support, it all seemed to go very well. As ever, those parents visiting were particularly complimentary about our Form 8 boys, who had been doing the guiding. Again and again I heard about the boys' politeness and maturity. Coincidentally, I was listening to the radio last night and I heard the obituary of a 98 year old comedian who had the ability of making his audiences laugh simply by uttering a catch phrase, something which seemed so easy and natural. The person who was reminiscing said that this ability was anything other than easy and that it required skill and hard work. "He was, when delivering a line, metaphorically making soufflés, as light as air but which required huge skill." In the same way, being polite, mature and thoughtful at the age of 12 is something that requires a huge amount of hard work. It too is akin to making soufflé. Our boys behave in the mature way that they do because the School prioritises such behaviour every day - manners are something that we insist upon. There are very many arguments to be made in favour of boys staying in a Prep School until the age of 13, but for me, the most important one is that by the time they leave, boys have a real sense of maturity because they are our senior boys at a time when they have the ability to take on responsibility. Meanwhile, those who have moved to a senior school at 11 will be junior pupils in large school at the same age as our Form 8s but with the institution looking to 16 or 18 year olds to be the oldest pupils.

An aspect of the School which our pupils make the most of is the glorious Cotswold stone wall which forms one of the boundaries of our playground. The wall has a basketball net in front of it and is often used to kick balls against – no wonder then that its windows have a latticework of protective bars across them. I happen to know that a rather elegant library shelters behind the darkened windows, a library into which occasionally a ball is conveyed by a wayward foot. This building is Campion Hall, which is the Oxford home of the Jesuit order, a Roman catholic order of which the present Pope is a member. It is a very striking building and was designed by the early 20th Century architect, Edwin Lutyens. I mention this because Lutyens was the architect responsible for the building of the Cenotaph, the country's principal war memorial in Whitehall where, yesterday, the new King led the remembrance ceremony for the first time. Two days earlier, on Friday 11th, at 11 o'clock, we remembered former pupils from this school who had died in the war. One of our Form 7 boys played the Last Post on his trumpet very movingly, the sound echoing off the walls of Lutyens' building. Peter Middleton, the former Headmaster of Welbeck Military College, who spoke in the Cathedral on Friday, reminded us that though remembering was of absolute importance, the remembering must also change us and ensure that we never adopt the sort of behaviour that might lead us towards war.

Last week we held a governors' meeting. The governors are the group of people ultimately responsible for a school. Our governors are a hugely eminent group of people with great expertise in various walks of life, all of which are useful for the oversight of our school. The considerable time they give up to the business of running the school, they give freely. We are very fortunate in the governors we have. At most occasions, including, for instance, Open Day, a governor is present. Please introduce yourself to any governors who attend events as they would be more than happy to meet you. It is with great sadness that I let you know that our Chairman of Governors, the Sub Dean of Christ Church, Richard Peers, is leaving us. He has been appointed as Dean of Llandaff, the Anglican Cathedral of Cardiff. We will miss Richard greatly as he was a great supporter of the School, including a regular preacher to the School in the Cathedral, and a frequent attender of school events. I wish to send him all our very best wishes for this exciting new venture. He will be replaced in his role as Chair of Governors by The Revd Canon Sarah Foot, Censor Theologiae of Christ Church.

On Thursday, my squash club came just before the governors' meeting. I told the boys I would need to leave the court five minutes early because there was a governors meeting. "Well," said one boy, "just be yourself..... Be cool!" How encouraging, if misguided, he was!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2022
Monday 14th - Sunday 20th November

MONDAY 14	
3.30 - 4.30	Exam Week begins (Forms 5 - 8)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
	After School Football Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
TUESDAY 15	
2.30	School Exams (Forms 5 - 8)
	Rugby U9 v The Dragon (Away)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 16	
	School Exams (Forms 5 - 8)
	Swimming (Forms 3 & 4)
11.30	Cardinal Scholars to Winchester College
2.30	Rugby U11 & U10 v The Dragon (Away)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
THURSDAY 17	
FRIDAY 18	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker The Revd Katie Jones, Associate Priest, Woodstock and Bladon
12.00 - 4.00	APS Rugby 7s Tournament (Selected Forms 7 & 8 boys) (Away)
	CC: OUT (return at 4.00 pm on Sunday)
SATURDAY 19	
SUNDAY 20	
6.00	<i>Christ The King</i> <i>The Sunday Next Before Advent</i> <i>University Seventh Week</i> CC: Evensong

Trinity Music Exams



This term's Trinity music exams will take place
on Friday 9th December. SB



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

Our senior boys in Forms 7 & 8, played Rugby against Cokethorpe School on Wednesday. Both games were hotly contested with a huge amount of skill and commitment on show from all teams. In the 1st team match, CCCS came out on top after the score line was level at half time. The boys fought hard right until the end and showed excellent character and resilience. We eventually ran out 35-20 winners. In the 2nd team game, things were equally as exciting, with both teams scoring tries.

There was confusion over the final result, but we think it was a draw. Nonetheless, the boys certainly seemed to enjoy themselves and get a lot out of the afternoon. NH



Pre-Prep News

Reception's topic this half term is 'Polar Lands'. Last week we read the story book 'The Magic Sky', which was all about a polar bear waiting to watch the Northern lights. Much like another exciting event happening soon, that our children are waiting for, the bear learnt the importance of patience, and filling the days before an exciting event with activity and work.



The Magic Sky was truly an event worth waiting for and the children of Reception created their own interpretation of the Northern lights with magic swirls and dappled colours.

Sometimes the natural phenomenon of the Northern lights can be seen in Britain but mostly only in the far North. However, Reception children have managed to bring the magic a little closer! RF



More Pre-Prep News

Form I have been looking at different 'Festivals of Fire and Light' around the world. As part of this topic, we have discussed the historical origins of Bonfire Night and the story of Guy Fawkes and The Gunpowder Plot in 1605. The boys have shown enormous interest in this story and have been busily creating fact files and learning about why and how it happened. In order to bring history to life, we have been acting out the events of The Gunpowder Plot, and the boys have put in some fabulous performances as King James I and his guards, and of course as Guy Fawkes, Robert Catesby, and the gang of plotters. TR



Reception and Form I took advantage of the sunny Autumnal weather and went for a fantastic nature walk around Christ Church Meadow. Our challenge was to find as many different types of animals as possible within a loop of the Meadow. The children showed great enthusiasm for this task and hunted far and wide. We discussed animal habitats and shared animal facts as we walked. We found a huge variety of animals, from centipedes, to squirrels, to moorhens, to the famous Old English Longhorn Cattle that graze on the meadows. When we made our final count, we were all amazed to find that we had spotted 20 different types of animals! At CCCS, we are so fortunate to have access to nature on our doorstep and we will be sure to make the most of the learning opportunities in our walks as the seasons change. TR



On Friday, Reception and Form I went off to the Woodland School to enjoy an afternoon of fire craft. The children learnt the rules of keeping safe around a campfire and the best sticks to collect to allow a fire to burn well. We then tested out if we had made a good fire by roasting marshmallows over the glowing embers.

It was a success! Using long roasting sticks to keep a safe distance and biscuits to remove the hot melted marshmallow, we all had a wonderful time and learnt how to stay safe by a campfire. RF





INFORMAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2022

William Walton Hall, 4.30 pm, Wednesday 30th November



Featuring solos by senior boys and festive performances by the CCCS Guitar Group, Double Reeds Ensemble, Big Band, String Quartet, Lower Strings Ensemble and String Orchestra.

Please contact schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk to reserve a place. SB



Remembrance Day

We made a Remembrance peg soldier battalion last week to help us remember those men and women who died in conflict protecting us.

Each child from Nursery all the way up to Form 8 made their own peg soldier to make up the battalion, which is situated just outside the Walton Hall until Thursday, if you would like to see it. EE



Medic Assist International's charity

Christmas Carol Concert by candlelight

Saturday 3rd December

Welcome drinks and mince pies:

6.30pm to 7.00pm

Concert start: 7.15pm

St. Michael at the North Gate Church

Commarket Street, Oxford, OX1 3EY

Tickets from £15 plus booking fee

www.medicassistinternational.org/carolconcert

Featuring

Holy Trinity Brompton's (HTB) Chamber Choir



Joanna Gill – Head of Classical Music at HTB, Pianist and Composer whose music has been performed at the Royal Albert Hall and on BBC Radio 3.

Dr Chan Ning Lee – a gifted Violinist & Surgeon



Dr Noel Tredinnick – Guest Organist and Composer, Orchestrator, Conductor and former Music Director for All Souls, Langham Place, London.

For more information on MAI and to buy your tickets visit:
www.medicassistinternational.org/carolconcert



UK Registered Charity No. 1100740

NATIONAL SCHOOLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

NSSO 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

Christ Church Cathedral School

Winter Wonder Land

16th December
Friday - from 4:30 pm to 6pm

Christmas light trails
Drinks Food
Christmas trees
Carols Tombola
And lots of fun!!!

Tickets selling fast
Adults £5 / Children free

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Christmas Light Trail

We plan to have a Christmas light show on 16th of December, 4.30 - 6.00 pm.

All are welcome, children are free and adults are £5 per ticket. Please purchase tickets from the school office.

Tickets can be purchased in person with cash or on the phone, we can add the cost to your termly bill.

The cost of the ticket will include a drink and food will be available to buy at the event.

The light show will display light creations from all of our pupils.

We plan to have a number of stalls outside in the playground.

We also plan to have a 'Bottle Tombola'. For this, we are asking for donations of any wine, spirits or soft drinks. Please bring these to the school office.

We hope that this will be a lovely school community event and that as many of you will be able to attend as possible.

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



Lost and Found



Trust (Form 6) has lost three track suit tops, one mid-layer and two winter jackets since September. All of the items were 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

Meet and Greet

Ellis Lloyd Payne - Parent of Eren, Deputy Head Boy

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? A Bank Manager seemed like a very sensible option when I was 10. Being an Events and Marketing Consultant has been less sensible, but probably a lot more fun. Please get in touch if you have any marketing needs.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I love unspoilt places which are not top of the 'tourist hit list.' The Galápagos Islands or St Helena appeal, but I don't fancy the 24 hours or so it will take to get there!

Who is your idol, and why? The Chachapoyan Fertility Idol. What's not to like about Raiders of the Lost Ark?

Favourite city or town and in which season? As my wife is Turkish... Istanbul in Spring.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? Hawaiian Pizza. Who thought pineapple on pizza was a good idea?

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? No. I sometimes wonder if the boys are mine.

Favourite Book? A Ladybird book on Princess Diana, which my brother and I have been exchanging as a Christmas present every year since the late 80s (as a joke). Each year we find a new way of disguising it when it's wrapped, so even though we know it's coming, it's always a surprise on Christmas Day.

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be? I'd like to be able to fix clocks, but doubt I'll ever have the time... or patience.

Any advice on how you relax at the weekend? Relax? What's that? I have children you know!

Ellis has reminded us that we shouldn't always focus on the big issues of the world. Sam Panopoulos, a Greek man who moved to Canada in the 50s, thought pineapple on a pizza was a good idea. Love or hate pineapple on a pizza, I have more concerns about an egg on a pizza, I just avoid ordering it. Artefacts from 'Indiana Jones' Are Now Available at Walt Disney World and I saw your idol was for sale for around \$130, which is a bargain. Put it at the top of your Christmas list. The British Horological Institute would probably agree with you in regards to your patience, but don't discount your problem solving skills - which is a desired aspect of any clockmaker. If it is any consolation, I think the boys do look like you, but maybe find out? Think of all that time you'd have on the weekend to relax. Thank you!

Have a great week.

Kathryn