



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 18th November 2022

Dear Parents,

Recently, I went into the Form I class towards the end of the day, only to find all the boys in the group sitting on their knees, their attention fixed upon their seated teacher. Mr Robards had, nursed in his hands, a guitar which he was playing with great enthusiasm. The whole class was singing a song about the pleasures of going to school. It was clear that Mr Robards had written it and, interestingly, all the boys knew the words. It struck me that even at a very early age, music can be an aid to memory. There are very few people who cannot remember words of a song. Music seems to me to be an invisible force which can do so much. Music can act, as I witnessed in Form I, as a tool for the memory; it can act to soothe those who are upset, to encourage those who are hesitant, to dignify the ordinary or to bind together a group of people. It is a great privilege to be in a school where you see its effect every day of the week (and, indeed every weekend) and we must never forget that boys as young as eight can contribute to the professional choirs which we have in the School. I attend services throughout the year and it is obvious to me that the old adage that high expectations produce high standards is never more true than with choirs such as those in which our boys sing. And in my visit to Form I, it was also abundantly clear that the boys couldn't have been enjoying singing together more and that they were so proud of the song that they had sung.

On Wednesday, Mr Richards and Ms Biddell took a group of boys to Winchester to visit the College. They were able to visit the Treasury which contains some exquisite Chinese ceramics and some important classical vases. The boys were then taken to the Chapel where they were allowed to play the organ and see the music department. Throughout the course of the term, our staff take pupils on trips in the local area. We have taken many trips this term. Many occur within Oxford, where we must have more places of interest per square foot than anywhere else in England. I have been able to recommend an exhibition on the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun at the Bodleian, I have been able to remind the pupils that the lantern which Guy Fawkes had when he was discovered with barrels of gunpowder in the cellars of Westminster is in the Ashmolean. All this is on our doorstep. Today, Pre-Prep went with Mme Williams, Mrs Merriman, Miss Dominique and Mrs Somerville to Le Pain Quotidien to order some delicious food and drinks in French. It's always good to know that speaking French has a very real reward! I am very grateful to the staff for being so active in bringing about these experiences.

I was so touched by the lovely peg figures which our Art teacher, Mrs Elias, asked the boys to design and paint for a display about Remembrance. They have been set up in the Walton Centre foyer and have delighted me every time I have passed. There is so much artistic talent here in the School so I am anticipating, even more eagerly, the Christmas Light Trail on the last Friday of term, which will feature lights made by all our pupils amongst other festive delights. I very much hope that you will all be able to come. Given the weather we have been having recently where the skies have been particularly dark, light will be a very potent symbol!

The Revd Katie Jones came to talk to the Prep School in Cathedral Assembly this morning. She spoke about the power and importance of greetings. Handshakes were a very ancient way of assuring someone that you were meeting that you came in peace as the hand which might bear a weapon was empty and instead being used to greet a friend. Revd Jones was speaking about greetings because Monday is 'World Hello Day', an occasion created in 1973 during the bitter conflict between Israel and Egypt. The idea behind it is that we should try to resolve disputes by communication rather than war and that communication, even on the level of a greeting, is very powerful in bringing people together. Gestures such as these have a much more powerful positive effect than we might imagine. Perhaps, on Monday, we should all try to follow the principle behind the day and greet ten people we wouldn't normally greet and see what the effect is. I will end this newsletter then by saying a very warm "Hello!"

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

**Michaelmas 2022**  
**Monday 21st - Sunday 27th November**

MONDAY 21	
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
TUESDAY 22	
	Bikeability (Forms 5 - 8) No Parking at School
12.00	CC: Visit to Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace
4.30	Play Performance (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 23	
	Swimming (Forms 3 & 4)
2.30	Play Performance (Forms 3 & 4)
2.30	Rugby U13 A v APS (Away)
2.30	Rugby U13 B v APS (Away)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
THURSDAY 24	
	Bikeability (Forms 5 - 8)
FRIDAY 25	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, Pre-Prep Christingle Service
	Parking on the Broad Walk opens at 8.15 am
9.15 - 12.30	Forms 3 & 4 trip to the Oxford Museum of Natural History
	EXAM RESULTS CC: OUT (Return on Saturday at 3.45 pm)
SATURDAY 26	
4.15 - 5.15	CC: Rehearsal (Cathedral)
6.00	CC: Cathedral Advent Carol Service
SUNDAY 27	
	<i>The First Sunday in Advent</i>
	<i>University Eighth Week</i>
11.00	CC: Sung Eucharist
5.00	CC: Rehearsal (Chapter Parlour)
5.30	CC: College Advent Service

**Trinity Music Exams**

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



## INFORMAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2022

**William Walton Hall, 4.30 pm, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk) to reserve a place. SB



## Form 2 News

Having studied the story of St Frideswide, Form 2 boys visited the Cathedral to look at the stained-glass window depicting the life of the Oxford Saint.

A big thank you to Jim Godfrey, Cathedral Verger, for showing us around and for the engaging talk he gave to the boys. EF





## Visit to Winchester



On Wednesday a dozen boys with Miss Biddell and Mr Richards visited Winchester College. After a brisk stride through Winchester – taking a peep at the huge Arthurian Round Table on the wall of the 13th Century Great Hall and passing the longest mediaeval cathedral in the world – we arrived at the College to meet two of our ‘old boys’ and the Head of Classics, Mr Lewis. Mr Lewis took us to the Treasury, the College’s own museum, housed in mediaeval stables, where we were



shown a rich array of objects, including a display of objects connected with the Silk Road with labels written by pupils, music part books given to Elizabeth I, pre-Raphaelite stained glass windows depicting stories from Idylls of the King, and a comprehensive collection of arrestingly coloured Chinese ceramics dating from Tang to Qing. We also saw a facsimile of the Charioteer of Delphi, whose original is one of the few Greek bronze life-size statues to escape recycling.



On the mezzanine, underneath mediaeval roof beams, we were shown, and allowed to handle, vases dating from the geometric period to the black and red figure vases of the 6th Century BC., with deities, wrestlers and hoplites - the vase with the latter a rare example of a surviving misfired pot. It is a rare privilege to hold a jug that could have poured wine for those returning from the Battle of Marathon. Someone clearly enjoyed handling them so much he (or she) stole them; but happily three have been recovered; and we were shown a red-figure lekythos featuring an august god which had only recently been returned to the College.

We were then taken to the Chapel to meet the Director of Music, Miss Baldock. She took us up to the organ, where each boy had his moment of experimentation at the three manuals of the powerful instrument, while we admired the mediaeval lierne vault and strikingly colourful Victorian stained glass.

Considering we managed three lessons at school and returned by 6.00 pm - we managed to pack much into a day. The boys were commendably engaged; and our thanks to Winchester, Mr Lewis and Miss Baldock for making our brief visit so worthwhile. NR

## Sports News



This week saw our U9, U10 & U11 Rugby teams play The Dragon Prep School. We had three fantastic fixtures where the boys showcased their skills and demonstrated just how far we have come since the start of the year.

We are hugely proud of all the boys who played and with just a few fixtures left, we look to have had a very successful season indeed. NH



Troy Buttimer has been selected, for the second time, to represent a select prep school team and compete in an international tournament called the ‘Gothia Youth World Cup’ in Sweden.

Troy was one of 18 players selected out of 140 who trialled across the south east of England.

We are so proud of Troy for this and we wish him good luck when he competes in July 2023. NH



## French News

Excitement was high as the gaggle of Forms 1 and 2 boys walked the short way to 'Le Pain Quotidien', at the Westgate Centre, knowing that a tasty treat was waiting for them. However, there was a catch! Each boy had to put his language skills to the test and ask for their order in French.

Luckily, this caused no problem at all and the boys spoke beautifully, with fellow visitors to the café marvelling at their French – bravo!

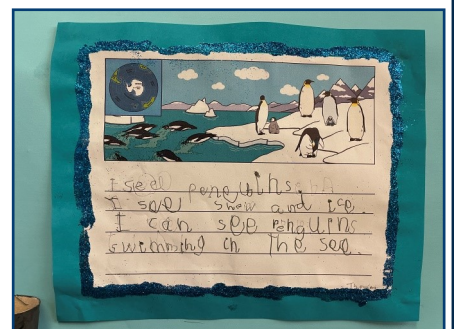
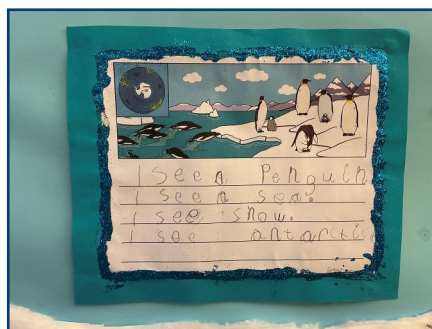
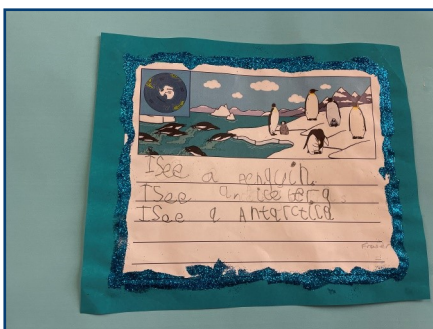
Walking back to school, everybody agreed that the croissants and pains au chocolat had tasted delicious. "Can we go again, Madame Williams please.... I mean, s'il vous plaît?" AE-W



## Reception News

Reception have been visiting the Arctic and Antarctic this week, learning about the different animals. We had to rescue a baby polar bear cub from an isolated iceberg and bring it safely across the classroom back to the den.

Later we visited where the penguins live and we wrote about all they could see. A few penguins snuck back with us too. RF







## Exclusive Christ Church Christmas Experience for all CCCS families

Monday 5 December 2022

Starting from Tom Gate at 3.45pm & 4.15pm

\*Lantern light tours of the Christ Church Christmas trees

\*Festive refreshments and 20% discount in the Gift Shop

\*Parking available on the Broad Walk

Book online - Tickets from £4

Enquiries: [tourism@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:tourism@chch.ox.ac.uk) / 01865 276492

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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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



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

**Andrew Bagnall, Head of Maths and Form 6 Tutor**

**What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now?** A military jet pilot. Unfortunately, developing Myopia at the age of thirteen put paid to that. Nevertheless, I joined the Royal Air Force as an Intercept Controller. This involved using radar and radio transmission to scramble and direct Phantom and Tornado air defence aircraft about the skies, to intercept Soviet and Russian military aircraft intruding into the UK Air Defence Region. After a second career in business, I changed career again to the teaching profession, a profession I enjoy immensely, where I am currently the Head of Maths at CCCS.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why?** I would travel to Japan. I am fascinated by the culture and appreciate the respect, courtesy and ritual that infuse Japanese society.

**Who is your idol, and why?** I don't have an idol as such, but I admire the qualities and the role model of Queen Elizabeth II. Her constancy in serving the country in such a loyal, steadfast, upright manner and being such a cohesive force for the nation, and beyond, for over seventy years was truly amazing.

**Favourite city or town and in which season?** During my time in the RAF, I was fortunate to be detached to a US Air Force base in Fairbanks, Alaska for some months. The season that was special to me was late winter, when the snow lay thick on the ground and on the pines, with a bright blue sky and the wilderness on the doorstep stretching out endlessly. Most evenings there, the Northern Lights display their spectacular light shows. Elemental, ethereal and so, so quiet – I felt very privileged.

**One thing you would change in the world if you could?** To significantly close the gap between extreme wealth and abject poverty in the world.

**Is there a family trait/habit that you have?** We're all pretty much different. One trait I get ribbed about is always checking that house windows and doors are locked. I wish the rest were as security conscious - so that's my wish for a family trait, I guess. It'll never happen though!

**Favourite Book?** Two of my favourite books are *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* by Robert Tressell and *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. Both are powerful indictments of social inequity in society.

**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 become accomplished on the electric guitar and form a blues band to play in at the weekends. Cool!

**Any advice on how you relax at the weekend?** Listening to streamed music from Spotify and Idagio on high-end hi-fi. Enjoying the playlists I've compiled in many varied musical genres over the years, as well as compiling still more! Throw in the weekend papers, a simmering coffee pot and, at some point, getting out for a walk in the countryside and we're there!

Now, if ever there was a dark horse, I think we've found him. Intercept Controller! If you have managed to avoid playground duty up to now, unfortunately now that you've uncovered your full skill set you'll be on the roster every second day. Knowing that trouble is brewing at 90 degrees and there you are in the middle of a catastrophic fuss, resolving it, in a clear, considered fashion, just like the old days. It sounds like the Myopia has made your other senses far more observant to your surroundings, nothing like the beautiful sound of silence. It is also known to be associated with a higher IQ level - there is always an upside. If this electric guitar pursuit doesn't come into full fruition, please write a fiction novel based on your past careers, (skip the business bit) and you'll have a best seller, screaming Top Gun 3 (with the anthem blasting in the background). If you don't mind me saying, it sounds like only one member of your family was scrambling and directing Phantom and Tornado air defence aircraft to intercept others who were crossing the friendship barriers, so I am not surprised you are checking your windows and doors. CCCS is a safe space. So many questions, so little time. Thank you, Mr Bagnall.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kathryn