



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 9th December 2022

Dear Parents,

It has been a long time since we have encountered weather as cold as it seems to be at the moment. I was particularly struck by this last night when we took the Worcester Choristers to Great Tew, an old estate village in the Cotswolds, to sing for a Carol Service in aid of The Angus Irvine Playing Fields Fund, a charity which we support. St Michael's Church is located a short walk from the main road down a walled path, which then turns sharp left and runs through an extensive graveyard with exquisite 18th Century tombs. We arrived at just before 5.00 pm. It was already completely dark, of course, other than the fact that the full moon was gleaming up ahead with a red-hued Mars close by. The outside of the church, a vast mediaeval building on the edge of this tiny village, was glinting in the moonlight, the windows warm with the light of candles. After practising we had sausages and brownies while the congregation began to arrive. Soon the building, bedecked with red-berried holly and ivy, was completely full – the old fashioned way to heat a church. The boys were magnificent, singing with great commitment, their well-known descants thrilling the singing congregation. Afterwards the congregation stayed behind to drink whisky toddies from the Cotswolds Distillery and Hook Norton beer from the nearby village. We weaved our way out through the crowds, the boys being thanked as they went. By now the path to the church had been lit by flaming brands and candles in red jars for its entire length. As we passed along this frosty candlelit route, the ground crunched beneath our feet. I suspect the boys will remember this experience for a long time to come.

The experience reminded me of the outstanding work done by The Angus Irvine Playing Fields Fund. The fund, set up by the former jockey Angus Irvine, seeks to help teenagers who are in danger of being caught up in drugs or gangs. The fund sponsors playing fields and sports equipment in many towns and cities in the country, including Oxford and Banbury. The thinking behind this is that belonging to a team removes the need for belonging to a gang – ultimately salvation through sport. This process seems to be highly effective and many young men and women find, through the fund's work, that they have a purpose. The fund is part of the charitable work being promoted by our 'old boy' and governor, Mark Beard, during the course of his year in office as High Sheriff of Oxfordshire. We hope to use our own playing fields to promote the work of the fund and may I commend the charity to you.

In terms of sport, we have had an exceptional term. The boys have loved the Rugby they have played and, of course, this is what really counts, as does participation, and in Forms 7 and 8 all the boys have represented the school during the course of the term. I have to say though that I can't resist mentioning we have had many more wins than losses, and the boys should feel very proud of what they have achieved. I want to commend Mr Harrison for running an excellent first term of sport at the School.

I am extremely excited about the Light Trail which we are holding next Friday night – I hope you will all come. Last Friday, we spent the afternoon creating lights for the trail – each pupil designed their own light so I am very much looking forward to seeing the school illuminated in this way. This event is a new venture, instead of the Punch Party which we normally hold. I suspect it will be extremely atmospheric. We will still be holding our Carol Service on Saturday morning when there will be an opportunity for our whole school community to gather together in the Cathedral. During the course of the service we will hear all our choirs sing. For me, this event is one of the year's highlights and it should not be missed at any cost! I remember a former member of staff returning to the service remarking, "I always think of this event as the start of Christmas and having attended it, I have already had an excellent Christmas!"

At school, our Christmas festivities have already begun. I was at an adorable Nursery Christmas Celebration yesterday where we were entertained by a beautiful row of singing snowmen. Though it was very warm in the packed room, we couldn't help thinking, given the temperature outside, how appropriate the costumes were. The girls and boys of Nursery had already mastered many well known Christmas favourites, accompanied by appropriate gestures - useful skills for the next few years of childhood. It was a lovely occasion.

In my Form 6 R.S. lessons I told my pupils that I am an Abbot who is wanting a new monastery designing and that I will choose the best architectural design once I have seen all their plans. All the designs I have seen so far have featured cloisters, dormitories, infirmaries and refectories but I have noticed a few extras creeping in - I suspect with the intention that I should choose that particular architect's design. One featured a 3D cinema in the private lodging, another an 18 hole golf course for my exclusive use. Another had a private cellar in which there was bar but my favourite addition was a dedicated room to take Music exams! This is entirely topical because we have been taking Music exams today in school. Monasteries were always places of learning, like schools, so Music exam rooms are extremely useful facilities! Have a good weekend.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2022

Monday 12th - Sunday 18th December

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| MONDAY 12 | |
| 9.30 | Form 8 visit to Palace of Westminster |
| 3.30 - 4.30 | Pre-Prep Nativity dress rehearsal (WWH) |
| 4.00 - 5.00 | After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4) |
| | After School Football Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH) |
| TUESDAY 13 | |
| 12.30 | CC: Coach departs from Albion Place |
| 2.00 | Pre-Prep Nativity Play (Cathedral) (Parking on the Broad Walk) |
| 2.45 | CC: Rehearsal at St John's Smith Square |
| 4.00 - 5.00 | After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH) |
| 7.30 | CC: Christmas Concert at St John's Smith Square |
| WEDNESDAY 14 | |
| | Forms 3 and 4 Swimming |
| 2.00 - 4.00 | CC: Rehearsal (Cathedral) |
| 4.00 - 5.00 | After School Chess Club (Form 2) |
| | CC: Not required for Evensong |
| 8.00 | CC: Music at Oxford Christmas Concert |
| THURSDAY 15 | |
| FRIDAY 16 | |
| 8.30 | Cathedral Assembly, speaker The Chaplain |
| | Christmas Lunch |
| 3.30 | Final Assembly |
| | CC: Not required for Evensong |
| 7.30 | CC: Rehearsal (Chapter House) |
| 8.00 | CC: Music at Oxford Christmas Concert |
| | CC: IN |
| SATURDAY 17 | |
| 10.30 | Carol Service (Parking on the Broad Walk) |
| | End of Term after Carol Service (Approximately 11.30 am) |
| | (Return 11.01.23) |
| SUNDAY 18 | <i>The Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> |



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

WORCESTER AND PEMBROKE CHORISTERS

VOICE TRIALS 2023



We are very much looking forward to recruiting new choristers for our Worcester and Pembroke chapel choirs in 2023. The next voice trials will take place on **Tuesday 17th January**, and I am delighted that we can offer this exciting opportunity to boys from Form 3 upwards. Being a chorister offers unrivalled musical training as well as the chance to develop team-work, grow in confidence, make friends, go on tour, record CDs, win music awards at Senior School and much, much more!

Some information about both choirs will be emailed out before the end of term, although please do contact me at biddell.s@cccs.org.uk if you have any further questions. At voice trial, boys will be asked to sing a short, simple piece (something learnt in class, or a favourite hymn will do) and undertake simple aural tests. Everything will be done to ensure boys feel at ease... it really isn't scary at all.

Please do get in touch if you would like your son to have a voice trial in January. SB

Flexi-Boarding



We 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.

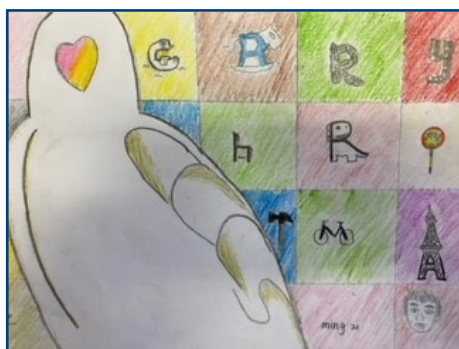
Cathedral Choir News

On Tuesday, the Cathedral Choristers travelled to Le Manoir to perform a Carol Concert hosted by Liz Goddard. The choir's Le Manoir program consisted of traditional Christmas Carols, music with a particular link to Christ Church and a number of French Carols - concluding with Rutter's arrangement of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

The boys particularly enjoyed mince pies and hot chocolate in the hotel following the concert! JR



Christmas Card Competition



Winners:

Gintas, Form 5

Trust, Form 6

Carson, Form 6

Mingzi, Form 5

Bowen, Form 1

Music News



Our Pembroke, Worcester and Cathedral choristers have all been busy singing at Advent services in recent weeks, and in school we are gearing up for one of the best musical events of the year: the School Carol Service on 17th December. It has been a joy to hear so many carols (and more than a few descants) in Music lessons this week. I hope that boys' families and supporters are looking forward to this wonderful musical celebration as much as we all are here in school! SB

Form 1 News

Form 1 have really been getting into the festive spirit this week. The boys have been busy decorating our classroom with tinsel, baubles, lights, and a Christmas tree. We have a 'Santa Cam' beaming live to the North Pole! We also have a cheeky elf called Elvis who has been keeping the boys amused with his acrobatic high jinks. We have been sharing lots of Christmas stories and singing carols together on the guitar. The boys have even turned their hands to a spot of festive baking. I am sure that you will all be on Santa's 'Nice List' boys.

Merry Christmas! TR



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.




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!



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: nssso.org

Easter Music Courses

Sunday 2nd to Thursday 6th April 2023

Join our world-class staff at our Specialist Music School for a fun-filled course of music-making and activities

Composition

Ages 12-18
Some experience of composing music required



String

Ages 8-15
Grade 4+ with some experience of playing in ensembles required

£695 boarding / £565 day
Book by 6th January 2023 to save 10%!

<https://wells.cathedral.school/music-easter-schools>



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



Nursery News

The children in Nursery dressed as snowmen, complete with orange carrot noses, for a Christmas Celebration on Thursday morning. Their parents enjoyed coffee and mince pies before a lovely performance of festive and seasonal songs.

A great time was had by all! NE



Meet and Greet

Lara Halmarick, CCCS Gapper

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? A professional footballer. I'm working at CCCS currently. I will start university in autumn next year at Melbourne University, studying media and communications.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? The French Alps! I really miss snowboarding and would love to be there this time of year - with the Christmas decorations set up.

Who is your idol, and why? My idol is my dad. He's such a kind, caring man and has worked so hard in life to be where he is today and raise our family.

Favourite city or town and in which season? Monterosso al Mare in the Cinque Terre, Italy, in the summer! It's so beautiful, the water is so warm and the fresh seafood is divine.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? The cost of travelling to be cheaper so everyone could afford to travel and see the world.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? Every year I go to Byron Bay, NSW, at Christmas time with my extended family, it's such a beautiful place to spend time with loved ones.

Favourite Book? *Normal People* by Sally Rooney, basic but such an enjoyable read.

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 fluent in a language - either German or French. Also, I would love to be able to devote more time to snowboarding and get much better at it.

Any advice on how you relax at the weekend? A nice sleep in to recharge, taking myself on a walk, meeting friends out and eating yummy food.

Having a cool-as-a-cucumber temperament like Lara's must come in handy in times of high adventure sports and being surrounded by nearly 140 boys. As far as I'm concerned, snowboarding is primarily a sport aimed at seeking out the very bravest. It is also one that I love watching but the idea of having both legs strapped to one board fills me with dread, or maybe I am just highly uncoordinated. Australia does offer several great ski resorts, Falls Creek, for instance, which will be your closest one, although the name could put one off entirely. Your dad should be very pleased with himself knowing that you set him in high regard, he has done a fine job in instilling adventure and curiosity in you. It is not easy to be far from family and friends but you've done it - and seen some of the best the world has to offer. I am referring to the boys' football skills in the playground of course, as I am going to assume you've had some influence over their skills, knowledge and enthusiasm - and it was not Mbappé if it wasn't you, with one more week to go, it's time to show the boys how it's really done. Wishing you well in your studies and new city, maybe we will be graced with your coverage and half pike turns at the next winter Olympics? Dream big.

Have a great weekend,
Kathryn