



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 13th January 2023

Dear Parents,

I was invited yesterday by St Edward's School to hear one of their pupils play the violin, not perhaps a remarkable thing you might think. But when I tell you that the pupil was playing at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in the Southbank Centre in London, as the principal soloist in the Beethoven violin concerto alongside the London Mozart Players, you might think again. Leia Zhu's performance was, judging by any normal criteria, extraordinary. As well as being technically faultless, she seemed to have mastered the emotions of this dense piece. One had to keep reminding oneself that she had not yet taken her GCSEs. As you might imagine, Leia received a standing ovation afterwards. In her interview before the performance, Leia came across as a thoughtful and self-effacing young person, seemingly completely unspoilt by her early success. When asked about the fact that, at 16, she was tackling such a profound piece, so central to the violinist's canon, she said "I am young, but that doesn't mean that it's too early - for all players, interpreting such a piece is a life-long journey." Given the seemingly faultless nature of her performance, I thought this a very telling remark. There is always another way of looking at a great piece of music and the way one looks at it when young, might be different from the way one looks at it when more mature. I did think though, that Leia was very fortunate in being able to have accomplished an interpretation by the age of 16! At the end of the interview, she looked at the conductor and said: "Let's do this!" By the end of the performance we realised, to our delight, that it had been well and truly done!

Leia did make me think about the nature of education. Education, too, is a life-long process. Of course it is most vital when one is young where there is so much to learn – so much indeed that it is one's full time job. But one should never feel it is too late to learn. Aristotle famously wrote, "The more you know the more you realise you don't know." This could not be a more apt reflection upon the experience of taking up a curious mind in relation to the world and I am delighted if pupils leave CCCS with an understanding that their education has only just begun. This is really one of the most important lessons that we can teach our pupils.

In the Cathedral this morning we had our first Eucharist of the year. The Eucharist is the most important service of the Church, going back to the Last Supper and Jesus's instruction to his disciples to "Do this in remembrance of me." Meeting together in the Cathedral is a central moment of our week and I wanted to mention again that we are in the Cathedral every Friday morning and that you are most welcome to join us. There is coffee afterwards for any parents who are available and we would love to see you. We often have speakers from outside, often Heads from senior schools, who will always be happy to meet parents attending.

On Wednesday, in my beginning of term assembly, I spoke to the Prep School about the fact that I had watched, with my sons, the Lord of the Rings trilogy over the holidays. Most of the pupils knew quite a bit about Tolkien's world of fantasy. I was at pains to tell them though that I considered Tolkien's world to be much closer to home than might initially have been supposed. I pointed out that Tolkien had lived for almost all his life in Oxford; that the two Colleges with which he had been most closely associated were Pembroke and Merton, one next to our School on the other side of Brewer Street, the other next to our playing fields. I told the boys that many of Tolkien's creatures had origins in Oxford - the Orcs, for instance, in carvings in a local chapel, the Ents, the walking trees, upon a tree in the Botanic Gardens. Furthermore, his landscape borrowed heavily from the landscapes around Oxford. But the nature of the world in which the characters lived also owed a great deal to the real world. In the Lord of the Rings there is, of course, a battle between the forces of light and darkness, between good and evil. I said that I did not believe that this was a matter of fantasy and that such battles occurred, generally less dramatically, in the real world. Most of us, I said, are trying to act well and that this often means that we are battling to ensure that our good inclinations triumph over those which are less admirable. It is always worth trying to be the best possible version of ourselves.

At the end of the talk one of the boys came up to me and said "I was very interested to hear that what you are saying is that the Lord of the Rings is a metaphor for the psychological and emotional battles between good and evil ....." I couldn't have, and indeed didn't, put it better!

Mr Murray

## Hilary 2023

**Monday 16th - Sunday 22nd January**

MONDAY 16	
3.45 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Reception, Forms 1 & 2) (WWH)
TUESDAY 17	
	Worcester and Pembroke Chorister Voice Trials
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception, forms 1 & 2) (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 18	
	Forms 3 and 4 Swimming
2.30	UI3A - C Football v Cokethorpe (Away)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
THURSDAY 19	
FRIDAY 20	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker tbc
	CC: OUT
SATURDAY 21	
4.45	CC: Full Rehearsal
6.00	CC: RSCM Epiphany Carol Service
SUNDAY 22	<i>The Third Sunday after The Epiphany</i> <i>University Second Week</i>

## WORCESTER AND PEMBROKE CHORISTERS VOICE TRIALS 2023



We are very much looking forward to recruiting new choristers for our Worcester and Pembroke chapel choirs this term. 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! Please do contact me at [biddell.s@cccs.org.uk](mailto: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 next week. SB

## Change of Contact Details

Please may I remind you to let us know as soon as possible if you have changed your home address, email address or telephone number so that I can amend our database.

Any changes of details can be emailed to Laura Kemp: [registrar@cccs.org.uk](mailto:registrar@cccs.org.uk)

Many thanks. LK



## 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



## 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](mailto:registrar@cccs.org.uk).

**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](https://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](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



## Pre-Prep News

In Pre-Prep everyone is very excited to be back with friends and teachers after the Christmas holidays. We began the term with a special blessing by the Chaplain. After Christmas comes Epiphany and Revd White invoked the children's blessings by writing the initials of Caspar, Balthasar, and Melchior across the entrance to our classrooms, with the year, followed by a special prayer. I am sure 2023 will be a fruitful and special year for all our children. RF

Happy New Year! RF



## Nursery News

We welcomed two new friends into Nursery this week - both they and our returning children settled into the school routine well. We have been busy working on our first letter sound of the year, **L**. We made lions in Continents Club as an introduction to our topic on Africa. We squeezed lemons and limes and put the juice into our lemon biscuits in Cookery Club.

Today, we went in search of a post box to send letters to our homes. We found a very old post box from when the King before Charles III was on the throne! NE





## PA News

The Winter Wonderland Light Show on the last day of Michaelmas Term was a great success. Not only did it highlight the creative ideas that the boys and teachers (especially the Art and DT classes) had as a collective, but it highlighted our School as a supportive community. We had so many parents and class reps volunteer their time and the children and school staff worked tirelessly to bring the playgrounds alive with posters, lanterns, lights and displays.

Thank you for coming and we look forward to seeing you all again at our upcoming events.

Kathryn  
PA

