



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 27th January 2023

Dear Parents,

About 50 miles to the west of Oxford lies one of the most fertile parts of England, the Severn Valley. Its gently rolling landscape is made up of lush fields and verdant hedgerows interspersed with charming villages of brick and thatch. Nothing, therefore, prepares you for the dramatically steep hills that rise up from this gentle country and which run in a North-South direction for about 10 miles. They are known as the Malvern Hills and are some of the oldest rock in the world, being 670 million years old. Early on, people were drawn to them, both for their dramatic outlook and for a less obvious but no less miraculous feature, their wells of crystal clear water. We now know that the hills act as a remarkable natural filtering system, the water falling on them as rain, slowly percolating through fissures in the hills, removing all the impurities. For several hundred years people have come to drink the water and both Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria would drink little else.

Yesterday, I visited Malvern College which sits at the bottom of the hills. It is, given its position, a wonderful environment, having elevated views across the Vale of Severn to the Cotswold escarpment. All this was impressive enough but I was also very struck by its holistic approach to education. Academic endeavour is, of course, central to everything they do, and their results are excellent, but the academic is placed in the context of a pupil's wider life. At Malvern the Director of Academics is also Director of Co-curricular, something I have not seen at another senior school. The two, the school claim, should go hand in hand. Societies are flourishing at Malvern, largely because of the fact that the pupils run them themselves only calling upon members of staff when needed. Giving pupils responsibility in this way teaches them a great deal and I was impressed by the Malvernians whom I met who seemed both charming and engaging. I was reminded that places of education can be immensely benevolent. We are so fortunate in the many senior schools we feed and we take great care in getting to know them so that we can help you choose the best school for your son.

As you may have heard, in our Prep School, from this term, we have combined what were two single clubs sessions into one double club session on a Thursday afternoon which should allow us to expand what we are able to achieve in a clubs session. Often 40 minutes was not quite long enough to achieve very much. We now have the capacity to do more. For instance, cooking will now be able to feature in the excellent Life Skills Club. Mr Richards and Mr Farmer are also using the longer sessions to forge ahead with the school play. I am looking forward to seeing this in the last part of the term and hope you will all be able to come on either Friday 17th or Saturday 18th March. As ever, Mr Richards has written the play himself with some of the actors in mind. The story revolves around a knight who finds being a knight somewhat taxing. I look forward to discovering more!

We have been hugely fortunate in the members of staff who have joined us this term. We have three fantastic new Gappers, Hamish, Alastair and Alfie, all of whom come from Australia and have flung themselves into school life with real vigour. Mr Herbert has also joined us to help with sport and with supporting children. He has already made a huge impact on both these areas, and in Pre-Prep Miss Helen and Miss Hajar have joined us as Teaching Assistants and have been such positive presences in the classes they are supporting. The one common feature of all these new appointments is their enthusiasm both about life in general and about the School and it is a real joy to have them with us.

I was delighted to award a prize at the Pre-Prep Assembly for kindness. I can't think of anything more worthwhile than such a prize; if our pupils can learn such things when they are really young, then they will never forget them. These life lessons are as essential today as they have ever been.

We had the whole school in Cathedral today. I told the pupils about a trip I had taken to the City of Jaipur in India, where I had seen animals everywhere around the town. I asked the boys to guess which animals I had seen walking around the streets. The first response I received was "A Tiger!" Despite the fact that India is a place of the unexpected, I think Tigers on the loose would be a step too far.....

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

## Hilary 2023

### Monday 30th January - Sunday 5th February

MONDAY 30	
2.30	St Edward's Rugby Masterclass (Forms 7 & 8 during Games)
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 31	
	Scholarships Day
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception, forms 1 & 2) (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 1	
	Forms 3 and 4 Swimming
2.30	U13 A - D Football v Chandlings (tbc)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
THURSDAY 2	
	Candlemass
	Theme Day
FRIDAY 3	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker The Reverend Professor William Whyte, Fellow of St John's College, Oxford
10.45 - 11.35	French Play (Prep)
P.M.	Cross Country event at the Manor Prep (Away) (Forms 3 - 6)
	GRADES CC: OUT
SATURDAY 4	
4.45	CC/CP: Full Rehearsal
6.00	Candlemass Carol Service
SUNDAY 5	
	<i>The Third Sunday Before Lent</i>
	<i>University Fourth Week</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

**There is now a Lost Property Box on the landing near to Form 2.**

### 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

## Clubs News

We have an exciting programme of clubs for this term. Clubs happen on Wednesdays for Forms 3 and 4 and on Thursdays for Forms 5 - 8. This term in Forms 3 and 4, boys will each spend a third of the term on the following activities: Book Club with Mr Robson; 3D Modelling Club with Mrs Green; Practical Science Fun Club with Mrs Simpkins.

Forms 5 - 8 boys have been able to select from these activities:

- Robotics with Crumble Controllers
- Sports: Squash, Badminton and Basketball
- Art
- Life Skills and Cookery

We try to give the boys in club time the chance to explore something which they cannot easily do in class and to look at it in a little more detail than is otherwise possible. We also try to vary what we offer from term to term, so we will be planning different activities after Easter. AF

## Theme Day

I am excited to be able to tell you that Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February will be 'International Theme Day'. The whole school will begin the day with songs from around the world: each class from Reception - Form 8 will perform a song for everyone else. We will have African Drumming workshops from a visiting musician, which everybody will take part in during the day.

The rest of the day will consist of a rotation of activities, each based on a country. In the prep school, all boys will do:

- Board games from Africa and China
- Modelling: Architecture of the world
- Sushi cookery from Japan
- Thai culture and craft
- American football (Forms 6 - 8)
- Haka dance (Forms 3 - 5)

**Boys in Forms 6, 7 and 8 should come to school in their Games kit please; others may wear normal school uniform. We are all very much looking forward to the day! AF**

## English News



On Thursday, Forms 5 and 6 went to the Story Museum. Firstly, we went to the Magic Common Room and we started to look at the portals, which we had to examine for unobvious objects. Then we listened to old stories from Wales and Viking Times!

Afterwards, we went to the Comic Gallery, which traced the origin of Comics from 1921-2022 and had a go at drawing our own. Next, we went to the Story Library where we saw many nice displays, like C.S Lewis' The Narnia Series, where we saw an accurate display of the settings of Narnia.

After an entrancing time in the library, we did our first piece of work, describing and drawing an object in the cabinets of the library, and a piece of creative writing which we liked. This was easily one of the best trips we've had and I hope we have more!

By Trust, Form 6





## 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).



## Changes to 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



## Sports News

We have had a frustrating start to the year with our first two matches being cancelled due to the frosty weather. However, this hasn't dampened the boys' spirits and we have been able to work on developing our Football as individuals, and as teams, during the first few weeks of Hilary.

This week, we were lucky enough to use the Christ Church Astro pitch to try some Hockey. This is a sport the boys really enjoyed and we will be looking to do much more of it after half term.

Forms 5 & 6 will be playing their first matches, against Chandlings School, next Wednesday. With the weather looking slightly better over the next few weeks, I'm confident that these matches will go ahead.

All boys need to have Football boots and shin pads for Games lessons. Given the cold weather at the moment, please make sure your sons are coming to school in their Games kits and full tracksuit. Gloves and hats are also advised.

Below are some images of Forms 3 & 4 training earlier this week. NH





## Within Tom Tower

I trust most CCCS boys know that Sir Christopher Wren designed the Gothic octagon and dome that tops Wolsey's grand, but unfinished, gateway to the College, since we all pass under it at least once a week and should be aware and respectful of our heritage.

On Monday, Cardinal Scholars et al. had the opportunity to explore the tower's innards. The lucky few (visits comprise a maximum of eight) climbed the narrow spiral staircase inside to see the six and a quarter greenish tons of Great Tom, the loudest bell in town, whose deep, reassuring boom marks our school hours and used to warn students of the closing of college gates (and once went by the name of Mary).



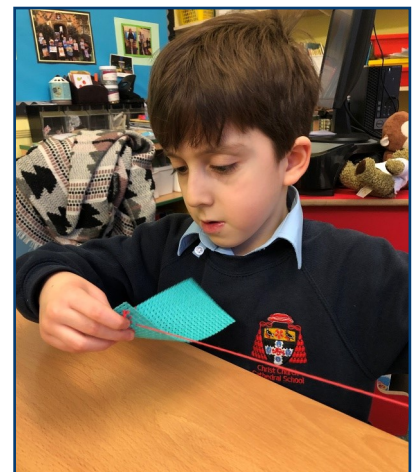
There was much else to see: the small, sturdy clock mechanism, a large old clapper, tempting ropes, and a blizzard of graffiti – mostly recent, but some dating from past centuries; and a beautiful view of the young Moon accompanying Venus towards the orange Oxford horizon.

Thanks to Helen Camunaz-Lopez for arranging this visit and to Patti Stansfield for guiding us so informatively and cheerily. NR



## Form 2 News

Persevering with embroidery in Form 2 takes patience, good hand-eye coordination - and a lot of concentration to learn to cross-stitch. EF





## Reception News

Reception have become map-makers this week. We looked at the different pictorial symbols that are used on maps and how roads and towns are represented. The children all worked together to create a map of their own imaginary town. They did a wonderful job and showed super team work and negotiating skills, discussing where buildings should be placed. Town planners will have competition! RF



## Wonderful Differences



Pre-Prep have been focussing on how they can share kindness, tolerance and understanding with their friends this week by learning about our 'Wonderful Differences'. We have shared stories such as *We all belong* by Natalie and Alex Goss and *Have you Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud; there have been Assemblies about petals of kindness and playground tolerance of people's feelings. The children have created a new area of the playground called 'The Happy Monster Zone' where they can sit if they are feeling they would like some time to themselves. All their friends know to respect this.

We have also enjoyed games and activities like filling buckets with kind thoughts and making amazing people. We have so many wonderful children in Pre-Prep! RF



**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 6+ with some experience of playing in ensembles required

£895 boarding / £665 day  
Book by 6th January 2023 to save 10%!

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

**WELLS**  
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

**OXUS**  
WINTER BLUES

AN HOUR OF MUSIC FOR STRING QUARTET BY:  
PURCELL, ARBANG, BEE TROIAN, CAROLINE SHAW, ALBA VITO-CHEMIN, AND SOME OVERLAND BLUES

**SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY**  
2023 AT 4.30 P.M.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LIME WALK,  
HEADINGTON OX3 7AL

TICKETS: £12.50, £3.50 (UNDER-18s)  
FROM [WWW.ANDREASTHEGODSONSCHOOL.COM](http://WWW.ANDREASTHEGODSONSCHOOL.COM)  
AND ON THE DOOR

**NATIONAL SINGLES SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

NSSO courses are BACK THIS APRIL including the inaugural NSSO Big Band!

When? 1st - 6th 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 opportunities in a magical setting.

Oversee: [malvern.org](http://malvern.org)  
Registration: [NSSO.org](http://NSSO.org)

### Meet and Greet - Hamish Foran, Gap Student

**What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now?** I wanted to be an architect because I loved the idea of design and building cool houses. Now I'm finding out what I want to do via this gap year. I want to do Law or Business at university. I'd like to be a Property Lawyer or an Investment Manager.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why?** I would love to go to Montana or Colorado to see the landscape like in the series 'Yellowstone'.

**Who is your idol, and why?** My idol would be Elon Musk due to his sheer drive for success in making the world a more accessible and reliable environment.

**Favourite city or town and in which season?** Brisbane, Australia. It's probably the best place to live as a young person; an hour from the Gold Coast, so much stuff to do and a good time with your mates is always to be had.

**One thing you would change in the world if you could?** For travel between locations (Australia to England) to be quicker so I don't have to waste time on a plane.

**Is there a family trait/habit that you have?** I use the same phrases and style of language as my dad, and his dad.

**Favourite Book?** Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

**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 learn chess and understand the art behind the individual moves of the game.

**Any advice on how you relax at the weekend?** Play Rugby, spend time with my mates and have a good time.

Another great Gapper to join our school, with enormous amounts of positivity and ambition, everything we need for the long grey days of January. If your pursuit in Property Law comes to fruition, I am very certain that you would be able to design the house you wish to - and have it built. So, play your cards right and you'll have the best of both worlds. I agree with you re: the time it takes to travel to Australia, but maybe you should travel to Australia by boat instead, and make the most of the long days at sea; there are plenty of things to do. You could set up a Rugby training group, master the skills of fishing, play chess (potentially professionally, after joining Chess Club at CCCS) and your first stop would be Brissie! It is lovely that you say things like your dad and his dad, a constant reminder to you of them! I sneeze like my dad, the moment I close my eyes and CHOO, I am instantly back with him.

Harry Potter! You'll be popular, a favourite book series at our school. We all know who Hamish will be dressing up as on World Book Day in March! Lucky for you, parts of the film were filmed at Oxford's Bodleian Library, Christ Church, and Oxford University. Get yourself on a tour, they are incredibly historic places that I'm sure you will relish knowing about. Other than Joining the Chess Club at school (the kids would love to teach you, and possibly beat you to begin with) you should grab the opportunity you have here by the horns, although something tells me you're already doing that.

Thanks Hamish!

Have a great weekend,

Kathryn  
PA