Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 3rd February 2023

Dear Parents,

What a thrill it was to be in the William Walton Hall yesterday morning. The Hall, of course, was named after one of the School's most famous alumni, the composer William Walton and, unsurprisingly, it was music which was the focus of our Assembly yesterday. It was the beginning of our International Theme Day and every Form in the school had been learning a song from a different country in the world. There were songs from as far away as China and Australia, from Ghana and Israel but, in some ways the most memorable was one from closer at hand, Wales. Partly what impressed me was Miss Biddell's mastery of the Welsh language with which she seemed completely conversant, despite the complex nature of the tongue. Secondly, the eccentricity of the song, which spoke about a little saucepan. All in all, it was remarkable what the boys had achieved and it gave such a colourful window into the differing cultures of the world. It was evident though that every culture had music at its heart and it was wonderful to be reminded of the universal appeal of song. I was also thrilled by the way in which the boys embraced the songs so willingly. It is such a privilege to work in a place where song is so much part of the lifeblood of the place. Particular thanks must go to Miss Biddell for having to work in so many different languages over the past four weeks.

This, of course, was just the prelude to an extraordinary day. The boys had a wonderful time experiencing a varied carousel of activities. A man with one of the most exotic double-forked beards had come from Carmarthen, in Wales, bringing huge numbers of drums (though no little saucepans) to give the pupils the experience of African Drumming. I attended the session when Reception and Nursery had been unleashed. All were completely wrapped up in the experience. We worked out the number of syllables in the names of various foods from throughout the world e.g. Spaghetti Bolognese (six syllables we thought) and then drummed out that rhythm. We played the game 'hot and cold', guiding the chosen person to a hidden object using the sound of the drums. The relationship between humans and instruments is so fundamental, even at a very early age. Do sign your children up for instrumental lessons if you haven't already done so.

I then went around to experience the other activities on offer. In the Maths classroom pupils were completely engrossed in board games ,Chinese chequers and Mancala from Africa, the latter being a game based on the sowing of seed. It was remarkable how absorbed people can become in seemingly simple games. In the Science lab people were making beautiful Thai krathongs from tissue paper and card; it was gorgeous to see colourful flowers emerge from strips of paper. In the DT workshop people were constructing buildings from throughout the world from pieces of wood, Plasticine and sticks – the Eiffel Tower seems to be an architectural archetype, with so many people basing their constructions on that great structure. Meanwhile, in the Art rooms, the atmosphere was exquisitely calm as the pupils made Sushi from a collection of delicious ingredients. At the end of the process they brought their food to a classroom in which a table had been laid, Japanese style, on the floor and, to the sound of soothing music and the accompaniment of delicious tea, the delicacies were consumed. In Shakespeare, our Gappers talked to the boys about the country from where they all have come, Australia. They showed us a map of their country with the UK superimposed upon it. The UK covered only a tiny part of the country, Australia being, we learned, 32 times the size of the United Kingdom. The boys learned about the many exotic creatures which lived there and of underground settlements built to withstand the extraordinary heat of the country's interior. Finally, the boys went out to Merton Field to learn some of the techniques of American Football. The pupils managed to achieve this without having to wear the armour that the professional players have to wear. All in all it was an extraordinary day. I want to thank the staff for working so hard to produce such a colourful array of entertainments and, in particular, Mrs Fairhurst for coordinating such a successful day. I was delighted that the pupils took so much from the experience and that they were reminded of the extraordinary variety of cultures in the world.

This morning the Revd Professor William Whyte, Fellow of St John's College, Oxford, came to talk to the School. As well as being a priest, he is an architectural historian who has just been made chair of English Heritage's Blue Plaques panel. He is therefore responsible for the body which ensures that famous people associated with various locations are honoured with a blue plaque. Revd Professor Whyte asked the boys to imagine what might be on their blue plaque if they were ever so honoured, suggesting that they should both aspire to some great achievement but also that they should hope that kindness might be on the description. I thought this was a wonderful way of thinking about oneself. I've heard of Blue Sky thinking but I suspect we should all practise "Blue Plaque thinking!" Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Hilary 2023

Monday 6th - Sunday 12th February

MONDAY 6	
3.00	U13 A - C Football v d'Overbroeck's (Home)
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 7	
	Cardinal Scholarships Day
	Primary Maths Challenge (Form 6)
2.30	U8 And U9 Football v Chandlings (Away)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception, forms 1 & 2) (WWH)
4.15 - 6.15	**Form 4 Parents' Meeting (SchoolCloud)**
WEDNESDAY 8	
	Forms 3 and 4 Swimming
9.15 - 11.45	Visit to History of Science Museum (Form 2)
9.45	Visit to Transport Museum (Reception)
10.45 - 12.45	Play rehearsal (Forms 5 - 8)
2.45	Colts A - D Football v MCS (Home)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
THURSDAY 9	
5.00 - 7.00	CC: Full Choir rehearsal (Chapter House)
FRIDAY 10	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker tbc
11.30 - 12.40	House Quiz
2.00 - 3.30	Poetry Recitation
4.10	**Half Term begins (return 20.02.23)**
	CC/CP: Evensong (Half Terms begins after Evensong)
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 11	
SUNDAY 12	*The Sunday next before Lent*
	University Fifth Week

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 Many thanks. LK

CCCS Poetry Recital Competition

2.00 - 3.30 pm Friday 10th February 2023

William Walton Hall

You are warmly invited to hear the finalists of the School Poetry Recital Competition on Friday afternoon. The competition will be judged by Dr Tara Stubbs who is Associate Professor in English Literature and Creative Writing at Kellogg College and is an expert on Modernist and Irish poetry. Dr Stubbs also teaches Creative Writing and English Literature at the OUDCE and will undoubtedly give wonderful feedback to the boys.

There will be some musical performances in between the recitals to allow time for judging. It promises to be a culturally stimulating end to this half term and I very much hope you will be able to join us. JP

Music News

Last Saturday, the world famous oboist Nicholas Daniel performed Mozart's oboe concerto with the City of Oxford Orchestra at the Sheldonian. CCCS oboe teacher, Miss Mogridge, is a member of the orchestra, and two of her CCCS oboe pupils went along to watch. Not only did they witness an incredible performance, they had a very special interval meeting with the soloist himself. He chatted with them about their oboe studies, and even asked about what Miss Mogridge is like as a teacher..!

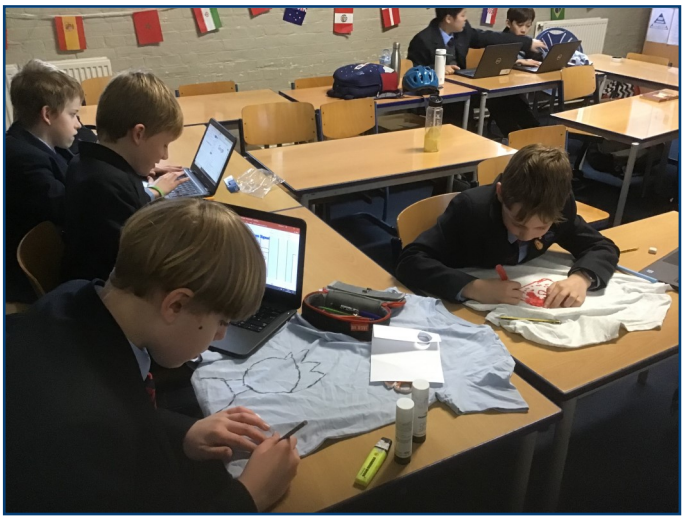
It was a fabulous evening, and we are so lucky to have such wonderful enthusiasm for the oboe kindled by Miss Mogridge here at CCCS. SB

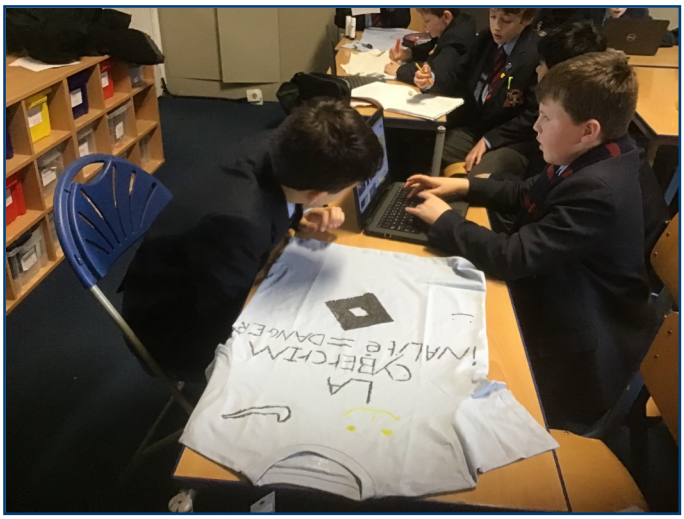
The Pembroke choristers have a new musical director this term: Mr Wilson, who comes to work at Pembroke after spending a year with the Chapel Choir at Magdalen College.

The Pembroke boys also have exciting new red robes, which are proving very effective at keeping them warm on a chilly evening! It has been excellent to hear Pembroke Choir singing again this term, and they clearly have an exciting year ahead under the direction of Mr Wilson. They can be heard at Evensong in their chapel most Sundays at 5.30 pm, so do go to support them if you can. SB

E-Safety

Form 7 have been busy preparing their E-Safety Campaign presentation to Forms 3 and 4 next week... SL





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.

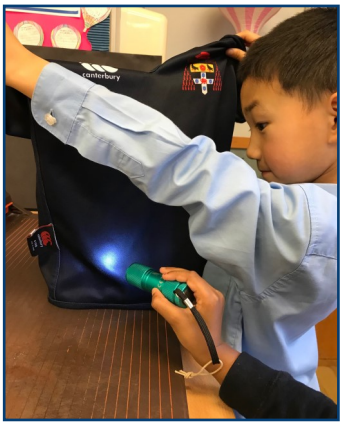
Forms 5 - 8 boys have been able to select from these activities:

- 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

Form 1 News

In Science this week, Form 1 have been undertaking lots of experiments to test the properties of different everyday materials. We have looked at whether materials are transparent, opaque, bendy, waterproof, or absorbent. The children had particular fun testing whether water would pass through the classroom windows. Thankfully it did not, but on the plus side, the windows got a good wash in the process! TR



French News

We thoroughly enjoyed watching *'Parlez-vous Francais?'* at school today. The boys in Forms 3 - 8 were able to understand this very funny Play and reflect on how valuable French can be in an emergency situation.

While we don't want any accidents on ski slopes, as happened in the Play, we are hoping that our boys won't ever have to rely on other people speaking French for them either! SL

"J'aime le ski et j'aime Roblox was my favourite line." Will S, Form 7

"Appelle la police made me laugh!" Gabriel O, Form 5

Sports News

Our U11 A team travelled to Chandlings on Wednesday to begin the Football season in what turned out to be a thrilling afternoon of Football. Set with the challenge of moving the ball forwards quickly and holding our shape in possession, the boys raced into a 4-2 lead at the halfway point with a first-half hat-trick from Troy. Stand-out performances from Henry Y, Henry P and Archie made it a great 20 minutes of Football.

At half-time we discussed how we could maintain the tempo of play and continue to attack at pace. We also gave all the boys the opportunity to play in different positions.

The second half saw Chandlings play a more direct style of Football and cause us problems in the final third, moving the ball quickly and creating overloads. The game finished 5-5 and both teams will feel that they had plenty of chances to find a winner, with Chandlings hitting the post three times and their goalkeeper making some very good stops to deny us the victory. Overall, a very positive start to what looks to be an exciting Football season for the U11s.

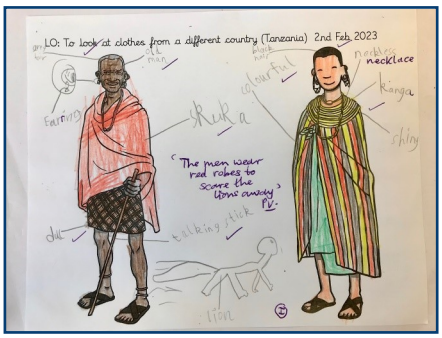
Next week, we look forward to a week where every single boy from Form 3 - 8 will represent CCCS. SP

International Day

Our International Day was a great success. The whole school met in the hall to hear folk songs from around the world, performed in different languages by all the classes. Then there was a huge mixture of activities. Everybody had a workshop on West African djembe drumming. Prep school worked in mixed-age groups all day, and everybody took part in: Sushi Cookery (with Mrs Schiller's classroom transformed into a Japanese tea house); Thai Arts (creating beautiful lanterns decorated with flowers); constructing wooden models of landmarks from around the world; and playing board games from West Africa and China. In the afternoon we added American Football for Forms 6, 7 and 8, then a workshop on Australia, led by our Gap Students for Forms 3, 4 and 5. Everybody had a wonderful day. Thank you very much to all the staff who led the activities so well. AF

Form 1 International Day News

Along with the rest of the school, Form 1 had lots of fun on International Day. We went on a trip around the world, focusing on features of the seven continents. First, we spent time in Canada, sharing a story about a lumberjack called 'Big Jim Hickory' and looking at the plethora of unique animals that live in the Canadian wilderness. Then we led on from our musical performance of 'Senua de Dende' and our drumming session, with a tour around Africa. The boys were fascinated to learn about the Maasai people and the bright, colourful clothes and jewellery that they wear. We learnt that they use 'talking sticks' to tell stories and that they can jump very high indeed! The 'fact of the day' was that the men wear red robes called Shuka because they believe that they keep them safe from curious lions! The boys created some very realistic pictures of lions, so we will be sure to wear red in Form 1 in the future - just to be on the safe side! TR



Form 2 International Day News

Form 2 boys learning to play Mancala, the game that originates in East Africa, dot painting of Australian animals and African drumming. EF

Reception International Day News

Reception had fun on a quick world tour of the continents. We stopped off to look at lamas in Peru, the desert in Africa, jungle animals in the rainforest and jelly fish from the oceans.

We rounded off the day by making a fruit salad, using fruits from around the world. RF

Meet and Greet - Alistair Gourley, Gap Student

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? I wanted to be a professional Rugby League player. I am doing a gap year now and I am looking to be a primary school teacher.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? The Amalfi coast because I miss the beach.

Who is your idol? Zack Lane, a Rugby league player in Australia.

Favourite city or town and in which season? Sunshine Coast, Australia in the summer.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? Decrease the prices of avocados and watermelon.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? We all speak the same.

Favourite Book? Guinness book of records 2012.

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/ money, what would it be? I would travel the world in a cruise ship or a sail boat.

Any advice on how you relax at the weekend? Watch a movie!

If there is one thing Australians do reasonably well its getting straight to the point. No beating around the bush, just fire on in. It is great to hear you're wanting to pursue a career in teaching, you're so lucky to be at a school like ours where you can get involved in as much or as little as you wish. Regarding this beach, the closest beach to Oxfordshire is the port town of Lymington, in Hampshire - an hour and a half from Oxford. Lymington is a Georgian sailing town on the coast in the beautiful New Forest National Park. Sounds ideal doesn't it, but pack your wetsuit, booties and head warmer, as it is no Amalfi, but sometimes the sound of seagulls, the taste of salt and the sound of waves crashing can provide you with just what you need.

The Guinness book of records in 2012 was a good year for records, so I am not surprised it was your favourite...The most dogs skipping on a rope was 13, achieved by Uchida Geinousha's Super Wan Wan circus in Japan as well as Chris 'the Duchess' Walton showing off her fingernails, which total 19' 9" (6 metres) in length. She has been growing her nails for 18 years. Fascinating. Avocados in the UK have to come quite a distance. For instance, we imported 114,000 tonnes of avocados in 2021 from developing countries such as Peru, Colombia and Mexico, they are expensive to grow too, on average, if one were producing 100,000lb of avocados per acre, it would alone use about a million gallons of water. The key here is to really savour the 'avo' and just don't share it with your friends. Thanks Alistair! Enjoy your year ahead.

Have a great weekend,
Kathryn

P.S. we as a school try to encourage sharing at all times, but this is an exception to the rule.