



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 2nd December 2022

Dear Parents,

This week has been a week of performances. On Sunday, all three of our choirs sang Advent services. More than 1,000 people attended the service in the Cathedral, the first time a service has been at capacity since Covid, and at Worcester and Pembroke it was hard to find a seat. It was very gratifying to think that such a large proportion of our pupils were singing simultaneously across the city. Today, the Form 8 French Play, *Les Trois Mousquetaires*, was a tour de force. The boys' grasp of the language was impressive and they each performed several roles, including an enraged woman. I was delighted to see the enjoyment with which they performed this colourful drama. Of course, there is a place for reciting verbs but a language is designed to be spoken - and delivering lines on a stage is taking this to the next level.

On Wednesday, we had the Informal Christmas Concert, which was a glorious affair. I was particularly delighted that so many of our peripatetic music teachers had come in for the day to rehearse with the boys and then to attend the concert. We owe so much to this group of professionals who enhance the lives of our pupils so much. What struck me particularly was the variety of instruments on display. For example, we have a large number of pupils playing double reed instruments, such as the oboe and bassoon. These instruments are notoriously difficult to play and, as a consequence, pretty rare. At the end we all sang Jingle Bells, many of us turning our keys into makeshift sleigh bells – a joyous finale to a splendid evening.

Last week I was away at an inspection of another school, a job I much enjoy. For those of us who have lived in a world of education, being able to spend time in another school and see a great deal about how the place works, is fascinating. Every year I do an inspection for ISI, the Independent Schools Inspectorate, the body which inspects us. Most schools in the country are inspected by OFSTED, the Government's inspecting arm, but independent schools may opt to be inspected by ISI, which most do. The advantage of ISI is that the inspectors almost always come from the independent sector and thus have a greater understanding of schools such as ours. This is a very important principle because independent schools have, by their very nature, the ability to be different from those around them. I once inspected a school which did not believe in exams and allowed an extraordinary degree of pupil self-regulation. It would almost certainly have failed most inspections but its pupils were very happy and were clearly flourishing. We were able to understand the approach being taken by the school and recognise its strengths very clearly.

During the course of the visit last week, I was able to reflect again upon the transformational nature of schools upon pupils, something we should never forget. We are particularly fortunate in the prep school world that we look after our pupils when they are so young. I remember once that I was walking along a very high ridge in Cumbria with a friend who is a Catholic priest. Even at so elevated a latitude, he was wearing his dog collar. We met a family who had a little boy who had clearly made it all the way to the top. My friend commented upon how impressive this was. The father looked at my companion and said: "Well, you would understand Father. Wasn't it the Jesuits who said 'Give me a child until he is seven and I will give you the man!'" It is a huge responsibility to have such young pupils in our school but it is also a huge privilege and there is never a day in school when I do not marvel at the magical work being done, and by our staff. These formative years are so important and we must always be mindful of this.

I recently heard a young pupil express an immensely important insight. It was during a conversation about education. Wisdom teeth, they said, grew because "as we spend more and more time in a school having lessons we become wiser and wiser." For me, this is a challenging insight - I had my wisdom teeth extracted as a sixth former! Let us hope the ancient understanding that it is age which brings wisdom still has some validity.

On a sad note, this week we learned about the death of Allan Mottram, CCCS Headmaster (1990 - 2000). Our thoughts and condolences are with his family at this time. In the words of Paul Wavell, Deputy Headmaster at the time, "He was a good man and a good Headmaster." R.I.P.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2022
Monday 5th - Sunday 11th December

MONDAY 5	
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
TUESDAY 6	
2.30	Rugby U9 v Cokethorpe (Away)
2.30	Rugby U8 v Cokethorpe (Away)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
8.00	CC: Concert at Le Manoir
WEDNESDAY 7	
	Swimming (Forms 3 & 4)
2.00	Football 4 x U10/11 v NCS (Home)
2.00	Football 3 x U12/13 v NCS (Away)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
5.40	CC: Christmas Party
THURSDAY 8	
8.15 - 9.15	Nursery Christmas Celebration, Nursery parents invited. Parking will be available on the Broad Walk.
7.00	WC: Concert (St Michael's Church, Great Tew) https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/aipff-christmas-carols-and-drinks-party-tickets-427079344817?aff=erelexpmlt
FRIDAY 9	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker tbc
	CC: OUT
SATURDAY 10	
4.15 - 5.15	CC: Rehearsal (Cathedral)
6.00	CC: Cathedral Advent Carol Service
SUNDAY 11	<i>The Third Sunday in Advent</i>

Trinity Music Exams

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



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

VOICETRIALS 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.

Christ Church Giving Day

The whole of Nursery and Pre-Prep baked biscuits, cakes and decorated bunting in support of a 'Giving Day' at Christ Church. The College are raising funds for a Refugee Scholarship and the children's bunting helped to promote the event. All proceeds from the bake sale were donated. Nursery children enjoyed visiting the Junior Common Room and helping with the sale.

We are very privileged to have the ability to visit such an historic college and be part of activities that go on within its walls. NE



Science News

Forms 3 and 4 were lucky enough to be able to visit the Oxford Museum of Natural History this morning. First they enjoyed a talk from Chris, one of the experts from the museum, on skeletons. The boys learnt about the different types of skeletons and the functions of skeletons. They also got the chance to look at and touch some of the museum's specimens. After the session the boys had an hour to look around the museum in small groups. There was much excitement from the boys as they explored the museum, they especially enjoyed seeing the T-Rex! CS



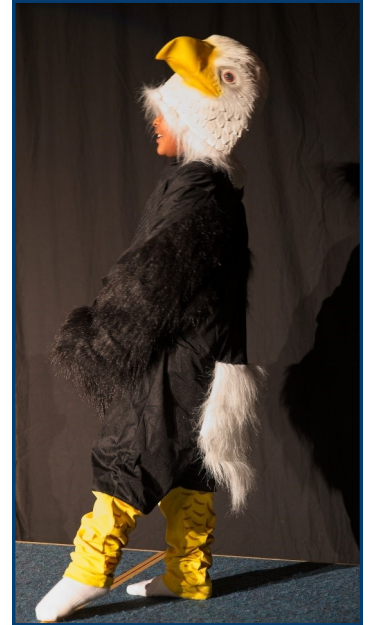
Linguascope



We would like to bring to your attention that we have just subscribed to the award-winning platform Linguascope: <https://www.linguascope.com>, a website offering interactive resources in French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Russian, Polish, Welsh, Scottish Gaelic, Maori, and English.

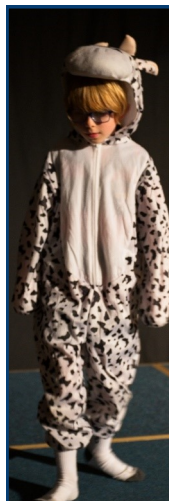
To log in to the platform, boys need use this username: **cccschool** and password: **France23**. The interactive activities are also tablet-friendly, with iPad and Android apps that pupils can install on their mobile devices: <https://www.linguascope.com/apps/>.

We encourage all boys to log in to Linguascope as often as they can from home. Practising little and often is key to rapid progress. SL and AE-W



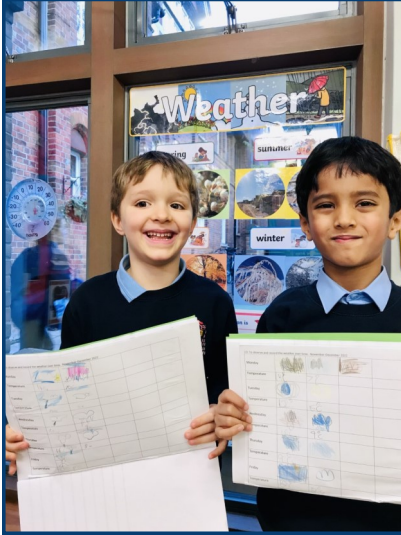
Jack and the Beanstalk

Forms 3 and 4



Form I News

Form I are undertaking a weather project this term. We are learning about how the weather changes with the seasons. The boys have set up a weather station in the classroom and we are measuring the temperature and daily weather patterns, reporting our findings in our weather logs. The boys have also made their own rain gauges and, with the help of Reception and Nursery, we have installed them in different locations across the Woodland School in order to measure how much rain falls each week. Given the recent inclement weather, I think the gauges may be very full next time we check them! TR



In Pre-Prep, we love sharing stories every day in our Assemblies and Story Times. Storytelling brings all sorts of ideas and subjects to life, sparking the imagination of the children and inspiring them to engage and respond.

In Form I, we are currently working our way through some of Roald Dahl's best loved books. Last week we read 'The Enormous Crocodile' and this week we have been sharing 'Fantastic Mr Fox'.

The boys have also been enthusiastically acting out the classic story 'Peace at Last' and we have learnt a rhyme and actions to describe Mr Bear's terrible night's sleep! TR

Choir News

Our Cathedral Choristers travelled to Hampton Court Palace to join their choir in performing a program of Purcell for Saint Cecilia's Day. The program included a selection of both sacred and secular music, including the Symphony (z.339), 'Welcome to all the Pleasures' and instrumental works such as the Chaconne in G Minor (Z.730) and Suite in G Minor (Z.661). JR



Form 2 News

Form 2 spent a morning at the Museum of Oxford, learning about Anglo-Saxon Oxford. During the workshop the boys had the opportunity to dig for artifacts, learn some trolle and lucet braiding and dress up.

What a brilliant museum right in our doorstep! EF



Informal Christmas Concert



Congratulations to everyone involved in this week's fantastic Informal Christmas Concert. A packed Walton Hall heard confident performances from Form 8 soloists, nearly every school instrumental ensemble was present too.

We were very lucky to have Mrs Wilson, Mr Somerville, Mr Williams, Miss Mogridge, Mrs Watson and Mr Wilson on hand, as well as a huge variety of instruments and age-groups.

What a wonderfully uplifting start to the festive season... bravi tutti! SB



Form 8 Drama Workshop

Form 8 boys rose to the challenge of performing *Les Trois Mousquetaires* to the whole school on Friday. They had less than ten hours to work on a script and adapt it to make it their own, improve their drama skills and work on their accent.

The play was heart-warming and the boys made it look so easy to perform a play in a foreign language.

A big Well Done to these brilliant actors! The Drama Coach Mr Murchie and the French Department are proud of them. SL





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 / 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

Featuring

Holy Trinity Brompton's (HTB) Chamber Choir

Dr Chan Ning Lee – a gifted Violinist & Surgeon



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 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



UK Registered Charity No. 1000742

NATIONAL SCHOOLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

NASSO courses are BACK THIS APRIL including the inaugural NASSO 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@nasso.org
Applications: NASSO.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 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.

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

Meet and Greet

Ellie Love, CCCS Gapper

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? I grew up wanting to be a marine biologist and am currently a Gapper at CCCS.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I have always dreamed of traveling along the east coast of Africa. It would be amazing to see some of the most unique and culturally rich places in the world, whilst following in the footsteps of my parents.

Who is your idol, and why? Every little kid looks up to their siblings and for me it's my two older sisters. They're both such strong willed and compassionate women, who are able to overcome daily adversity whilst looking out for each-other.

Favourite city or town and in which season? Sydney, specifically the northern beaches during autumn.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? I'd reverse the effects that climate change has already had and make it easier for both the every-day person and larger corporations to limit their negative impact.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? My family have always eaten dinner all together at the dinner table every night. I continue to do that despite them being on the other side of the world. I still find it so strange that I can sit on the couch to eat dinner

Favourite Book? *The Dry* by Jane Harper.

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be? I would learn how to scuba dive and/or free dive.

Any advice on how you relax at the weekend? Go for a walk and visit a new cafe, grab a coffee and pastry.

We have a lot to learn from our up and coming generations with the motivation and interest to make positive change - fighting the good fight for our environment. I will have to refrain from running down Brewer Street next drop off in my wetsuit, with a mask and a snorkel in hand, desperate for you to get started on your exciting career ahead. Moving from sunny Australia to grey skies and low temperatures can be challenging, but Ellie jumped at an opportunity like all of our Gappers, braced the cold winds and in true Aussie spirit just put a beanie on and got on with it. It is strange that you (one) eat dinner on the couch, even crazier that they actually make trays with padding for your knees so you can keep your food steady! I am not judging anyone's preference for meal location, but surely that's a slippery slope. Our Gappers are awesome, they are thrown into the deep end, mucking in, with endless amounts of new skills gained, generally filling in the gaps. We are all grateful for this. Manly dive centre is waiting for you Ellie, you can meet the local wildlife below the surface of the water where the tranquillity will be far from the thrills and spills of the CCCS playground, the water will be bluer, the sun will be warmer and the world is now your oyster. Thank you.

Have a great weekend
Kathryn PA