



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 17th March 2023

Dear Parents,

As many of you will have read, The King has approved the appointment of Canon Sarah Foot as Dean of Christ Church from July. Canon Foot has been a Canon at Christ Church since 2007 and has, in that time, been a devoted and active Governor of the School, so I am delighted that someone who has shown such an interest in the School over the years, has been appointed Dean. Canon Foot has, at the moment, the title of Censor Theologiae. The person holding this position has traditionally deputised for the Dean, something Canon Foot has been doing over recent months and it is therefore a very obvious appointment. She is the first woman to have been appointed to this role in the Foundation's History.

I thought it worth explaining why it is the King who appoints the Dean of Christ Church. Though it was Wolsey who founded the original College, including Tom Quad and most of the buildings it comprises, it was Henry VIII who turned the College Chapel into a cathedral of his new Diocese of Oxford and by so doing; created a new Foundation which was both College and Cathedral named Christ Church. Christ Church, therefore, is a Royal Foundation, and its Dean is, unusually for Heads of Houses of Oxford or Cambridge Colleges, appointed by the Sovereign. This is also the case at Henry VIII's other great academic foundation - Trinity College, Cambridge. The Dean of Christ Church is unique in being both the Dean of a Cathedral and a Head of a University College. I would like to wish Canon Foot the School's heart-felt congratulations upon her appointment, we look forward to welcoming her in her new capacity as Dean before very long.

In the Cathedral this morning, Pre-Prep held their Mothering Sunday service. It was a magnificent occasion and I do not think I have ever seen more parents in the Cathedral for a Friday morning service. It was a truly heart-warming service. The centrepiece of the service was when the pupils explained why they loved their Mummies. Their Mummies clearly do a great number of things for which they are loved, including "Cooking lovely dinners", "Buying nice toys", "Making pancakes." But in some ways, the most touching was a little boy who simply said. "Mummy, I love you." I think that summed it all up. It does not take very many lessons or much experience to understand the importance of loving someone. I am so very fortunate to be able to attend such wonderful occasions as part of my job!

Talking of the Cathedral. I was showing some prospective parents and their sons around our School earlier this week. They were keen to see the Cathedral, which they had not seen before. We arrived in the building and one of the boys looked up to the ceiling and said "WOW, that's amazing!" How splendid to be reminded of the fact that we are so very lucky.

The William Walton Hall and surrounding area has been transformed into a theatre over the past few days. At Assembly on Wednesday, the pupils were dodging goblets and threading their way around pieces of armour – a sign that the play is set in medieval times. I look forward to watching the Play later today, and again tomorrow, and I hope that as many of you who can come to see it, will. So many of the boys have worked very hard to ensure that the Play will be a success. It's at 6.30 this evening and tomorrow (Saturday).

On Wednesday, I attended our Pre-Prep concert. It was another feast of music and it is clear that already we have a number of budding instrumentalists, even though some of them were about the same height as their instruments! Even more striking are the large number of brilliant and enthusiastic singers who sang with real passion and energy.

One of the boys came to see me earlier this week. "May I borrow your cape, Sir" A little questioning determined that it was my gown he was after. "It's for the Play, Sir." I can't say that it fitted him perfectly; it trailed significantly on the floor. "That will be perfect, thank you Sir" he said. I am interested to find out exactly what purpose an oversized gown will play and what role the boy in question is taking. That of course will become clear during the performance!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Hilary 2023
Monday 20th - Sunday 26th March

MONDAY 20	
9.15 - 2.30	Reception visit to Fairytale Farm
9.45	Form 3 visit to Botanic Garden
10.45 - 2.15	Forms 5 & 6 visit to Oxford Castle & Prison
3.45 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Reception, Forms 1 & 2) (Merton Field)
TUESDAY 21	
9.00 - 4.00	Trinity Music Exams (WWH)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception, Forms 1 & 2) (WWH)
4.30 - 6.30	Pre-Prep Parents' Meeting (SchoolCloud)
WEDNESDAY 22	
	Science Assembly
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
2.15 - 3.45	Form 7 visit to County Hall
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tag Rugby Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
THURSDAY 23	
9.15 - 2.15	Science Workshop Day (WWH)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
FRIDAY 24	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker tbc
2.00 - 3.00	Pre-Prep Easter Egg Hunt in the Cathedral Garden. Refreshments in the Chapter House afterwards, parking on the Broad Walk tbc
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tag Rugby (Reception, Forms 1 & 2) (Merton Field)
4.10	End of Term (return 19.04.23) CC/CP Term ends after Evensong
SATURDAY 25	
SUNDAY 26	<i>The Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>

Trinity Music Exams

This term's Music exams will take place on Tuesday 21st March.

If your son has an exam this term, please encourage him to check the Trinity timetable on the board by the practice rooms.

Thank you SB



French News

On Thursday, Forms 3 and 4 went to the 'fromagerie' in the Covered Market to order some French cheese... in French!

Their next mission was to taste the cheese with their families and give each cheese a score. We hope they all enjoyed their meals!

While in the Covered Market, we tried spotting as many 'French shops' as possible - Un Fleuriste, Une Cordonnerie, Une Glacerie. We think the boys are ready to go to France now! SL



CCCS Minibus



For boys in Forms 3 - 8, we operate a morning and afternoon minibus service.

If you would like your son to be brought to and/or from school in our minibus, on a regular, or one-off, basis, please contact us:

schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk

The cost is: Bus run one way, £240 per term. Bus run both ways, £355 per term. LK



Music News

Congratulations to the musicians of Pre-Prep, who gave a wonderful concert in the Walton Hall on Tuesday this week. There were lively songs, an array of impressive instrumental performances by Form 2 boys, and even some sign language which parents were able to learn too. Well done, everyone!

Trinity Music Exams - Please be aware that this term's Music exams take place on Tuesday 21st March. A timetable is up on the Music noticeboard, so please do remind your son to check it and bring in his instrument, music and accompaniment if he has an exam. Very best of luck to all candidates. SB

Form 2 News

Cards, poems, paintings and cupcakes from Form 2 for their mothers for Mother's Day. EF



Lost and Found

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

Sports News

The Bruern Abbey Football Tournament is one of the highlights of the Football calendar. On Wednesday, our U11s travelled to Bruern Abbey in an attempt to go one better than their second-place finish last year. It seems that the tournament has to be played in the rain and this year was no different, meaning playing conditions were a little challenging for the boys.

The boys got off to a great start against Chesterton School, winning 3-1 thanks to two goals from Troy and one from Henry. The score line slightly flattered us and the boys were challenged to attack with more pace, in groups, and transition faster upon losing the ball in order to win back possession as quickly as possible.

After a short break we played two games back to back and the boys rose to the challenge in fine fashion, brushing aside Bruern Abbey A in a one-sided 2-0 win, with goals from Troy and Henry again and then grinding out a fantastic 2-1 victory against last year's winners, Gateway School, thanks to goals from Archie and Henry.

A much needed break gave us the opportunity to discuss how the afternoon was going. The boys were challenged to continue playing the way they had been and worked out that they were two games away from winning the tournament. The boys were challenged to remain focused on playing our style of play and guard against complacency.

Our fourth game was another one sided affair against Bruern Abbey B, with two goals from Troy, allowing us to cruise to a 2-0 win.

The final game pitted us against Sibford School. Knowing we were on maximum points, and that Sibford had drawn one of their games, meant that anything, other than defeat, would allow us to finish top of the table. A very competitive game saw both sides create multiple chances to score and, after surviving a late scare, the game finished 0-0. Enough for us to become champions.

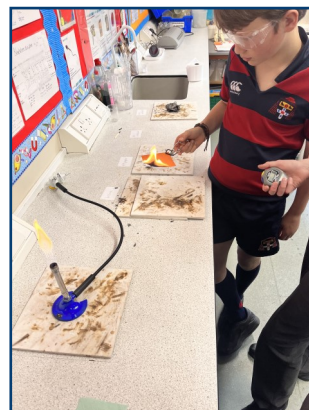
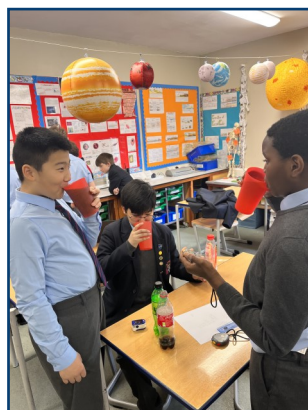
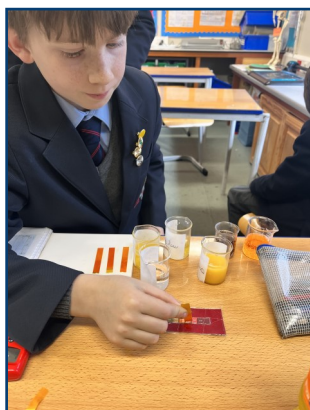
The boys should feel very proud of themselves, most matches we play have little focus on the result and more on developing our football skills and knowledge, but on an afternoon where results were a focus the boys were able to manage the way they played, focus on how, and what, they needed to do to get the right results and showed the desire, commitment and passion to earn a very much deserved gold medal. Congratulations U11s!! SP



Science News

This week, as part of British Science Week, boys across the Prep School have been working on their own projects to enter into the annual Science Oxford, Big Science Event. Questions posed by the boys have included, "How do fizzy drinks affect heart rate?", "How much do we use our eyes and nose to taste?" and "Which materials will combust the fastest?"

Next week the staff will be voting on their favourite project and the winning group will go forward as our CCCS entry to the main competition. CS



Baby Sitting Services

Alfie and Hamish, two of our Gap Students are available for baby sitting/child minding/ house sitting/pet sitting etc., during the first week of the Easter holidays:

Alfie: gourley.a@cccs.org.uk Hamish: foran.h@cccs.org.uk

London Marathon



Mr Bagnall, our D.T. Teacher is attempting to run the London Marathon on 23rd April, supporting two charities:

- 13 Rivers Trust
- Battersea Cat's and Dog's Home

If any of our parents would like to sponsor Mr Bagnall please email: bagnall.c@cccs.org.uk



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.

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.

CCCS Reading Challenge

How does the challenge work?



- Choose 3 or more books that you would like to read over the Easter holidays. They should each be from a different genre:
- Thriller, adventure, comedy, science fiction, fantasy, contemporary, historical, other cultures and lands, dystopian, graphic novel, non-fiction.
- When you have finished reading your book you can record your thoughts in several different ways:
 - A written book review
 - A photo or series of photos reading your book somewhere relevant to the story
 - A vlog in which you talk about the book

Send your entries to Mrs Ponsford by email or bring them to school at the start of term.

Each book you finish and review will be worth two house points and so you can earn a lot of points for your house. You can listen to the books on an app like Audible as well as reading them physically.



How do I find books I want to read?

- Ask your friends and other boys at the school to recommend books they've enjoyed.
- Go to a library and tell the librarian the books you've enjoyed. They will be able to help you find more that you would like.
- Go to a book shop and ask for help from the book seller. They will always have lots of recommendations.
- Think about what films and tv shows you enjoy. Try choosing a book that is in the same genre or even by the same writer.
- Look on a website like Good Reads. You can type in the name of a book and it will give you recommendations for others you might like.
- Read book reviews in the newspaper or online.

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Meet and Greet - Anna Fairhurst - Deputy Head Academic

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? I know it's boring but I actually always wanted to be a teacher. I remember being about five years old, lining all my toys up and writing out the register in a notebook. My Mum was a teacher too and I used to love going in to her class and helping her children, when I had lovely long independent school holidays and she didn't. I can't imagine anything being more fun than spending time with children and seeing them enjoy learning!

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I would go somewhere really warm and sunny because I'm fed up of the winter! It would be a place with mountains, trees – and if I'm really allowed to go anywhere, monkeys above my head while I go for long walks and read a book.

Who is your idol? Queen Aethelflaed of Mercia. She was Alfred the Great's daughter and managed to be a great ruler – defeating several Viking armies, founding monasteries and doing all the other things Anglo-Saxon kings were supposed to do – despite plenty of people thinking she should let a man take charge.

Favourite city or town and in which season? Summer, of course – and I love my little town of Charlbury where I can't go anywhere without meeting someone I know, and there are plenty of green spaces to relax.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? I would make sure every child in the world could go to a brilliant school, with small class sizes, good resources and opportunities for music, trips and sport. I would love it to be the child's right and nothing to do with how much parents can pay. I support a charity school in Kenya, in an area where few parents can afford to send their children to regular school at all (because there are no free schools there), and what I love about it is that the Head isn't happy to have his school the same as all the others – he is working towards building a library, an ICT suite, a proper school kitchen and everything we have. Bit by bit, he's getting there. (It's called Melon Mission and they have a Facebook page in case anyone is interested.)

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? When I get excited about something, I get really excited. In one job I used to have, I was known as Tigger. I'm not sure whether or not that was a compliment...

Favourite Book? I have a new favourite book every month! However, my real favourite books are the ones I've enjoyed with classes of children because by lingering with a book over several months, a book becomes part of who you are. I'm thinking of *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell: just thinking about it makes me want to go to the Amazon rainforest (though probably not to swim in the river...)

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/ money, what would it be? I have always wanted to be able to tap dance like Fred Astaire. As I am sure I am dyspraxic (though my generation tended not to get diagnosed for things like that), it was never likely to happen.

Any advice on how you relax at the weekend? I love doing something fun – anything at all – with my six-year-old son and hopefully other friends or family as well. Right now I'm dreaming of the Cotswold Wildlife Park in the sunshine. Summer is coming soon, isn't it?

Never in my life have I associated Britain with sunshine, although I do agree that summer (when it performs) is heavenly. I am surprised that you live in the UK if you enjoy the sun so much? Definitely consider a move one day to Yuma in Arizona as apparently it experiences an average of 4,015 hours of sunshine per year, considering there are 8760 hours in a year and you're potentially asleep for 2920 of them, that's a pretty high likelihood that it is sunny most days. Not sure about the monkey population though, but there are Roadrunners.

Without a doubt, education is a gateway to opportunity, but it has always felt like it is the teacher who can make the difference between a good education and a great education, and that is something money can't buy.

You shouldn't let something like dyspraxia hold you back! Why don't you try interpretive dance instead? There are no proper rules or beats to hit - it might get you really excitable though, look out Charlbury! Tigger has hit the high notes! TTFN

Kathryn