



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 24th March 2023

Dear Parents,

Yesterday, the whole school enjoyed the visit from a Scientist who came to see us from Science Oxford. The Scientist's presentation began by everyone shouting very loudly at him, something they needed to do because he had donned a pair of ear defenders. This outburst of noise led on to his drawing out from the boys an understanding of the nature of sound. What occurred to me while I was watching was how curious our pupils are about the world around them and indeed how much they know. There is huge thirst to discover things and, as a consequence, and thanks to Mrs Simpkin's inspiring teaching, the Science Lab at CCCS is a place of real adventure. Science will be the clue to solving many of the world's problems and to enhancing the lives of the world's population in the future and I am delighted that so many of our pupils clearly love the subject - there are few more powerful tools.

The School Play '*All Is Not Lost*' was a triumph. As ever, Mr Richards' script was a masterpiece of wit and invention, every line being a delight. The boys rose magnificently to the occasion and the stage sparkled with committed and engaging performances. The Play was about a knight who had become so distracted by music that he was not able to perform his knightly duties of dealing with dragons and all those other perils which beset knights. Eventually, of course, all is well and the play ends with a song demonstrating the power of music. I am thrilled at the quality of Drama at our school.

And this week we were reminded of the power of music to engage our pupils when we received the results of the Trinity Music exams. For the first time since Ms Biddell joined CCCS, 15 years ago, every single exam result was gained with either a Merit or a Distinction and many of the grades were at a very high level, including two Grade 6 Distinctions and one Grade 8 Distinction. I cannot overstate the significance of these results and I wish to congratulate the boys involved as well as Ms Biddell, who is largely responsible for music being so integral to the School.

This afternoon, as I looked out of the window, the hue of the scene changed from colour to grey and within seconds there was a deluge. I looked at the clock and saw that it was ten minutes before the Pre-Prep Egg Hunt in the Cathedral Garden. This doesn't look good, I thought. Nonetheless I walked over St Aldates, crossed Tom Quad and went into the Cathedral. I was greeted by crowds of expectant parents but no pupils. Would they be coming? As we sheltered in the West End of the Cathedral, we noticed that a glimmer of colour was appearing, and, before our very eyes, the panorama returned. We filed out into the garden, one of those featured in *Alice in Wonderland*. We waited – still no pupils. Eventually we heard a slight padding of feet and then round the corner came the Nursery pupils sheltering under their Easter bonnets. And then more and more came. Miss Farmer had sensibly determined that they should dodge the rain – something they had successfully done. Soon afterwards the children were sent off to look for the hidden eggs with the strict instructions to find one only. Even with this stricture the excitement was intense!

No such limits had been placed upon the pupils I encountered when I returned to the main building where I found the Prep boys hunting for eggs. "I hope you haven't exceeded your one." I stated in a headmasterly way. "Hmm," replied the boy, "I've found 11." Some people were clearly thinking big.

May I wish you all a thoroughly enjoyable if not egg-filled Easter!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Trinity 2023
Monday 17th - Sunday 23rd April

MONDAY 17	
9.00	School Office Opens
TUESDAY 18	
9.00	School Office Opens
6.00	CC/CP: Return
6.00	CC:CP Parents' Meeting (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 19	
7.55	CC: Rehearsals begin
8.25	Term begins
3.30 - 4.30	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
4.00 - 5.00	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Cricket (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
THURSDAY 20	
8.00	WC: Rehearsals begin
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
FRIDAY 21	
	French Numbers House Competition
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker tbc
4.00 - 5.00	After School Cricket (Reception, Forms 1 & 2) (Merton Field)
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 22	
8.45	CC/CP: Rehearsal
10.30	CC/CP: Free to go home until Sunday 4.00 pm
SUNDAY 23	
	<i>The Second Sunday after Easter</i>
	<i>University First Week</i>
5.30	PC: First Service
6.00	WC: First Service



French Numbers House Competition



On Friday 21st, we will have a 'weakest link' French Numbers House Competition.

Forms 3 & 4 will compete with numbers between 0 and 50. Forms 5 - 8 will compete with all numbers.

For the first 10 rounds the boys will need to get the correct number to stay in the competition.

Then, it's a race to be the quickest to get the right number! SL



Form 7 News

Form 7 visited County Hall on Wednesday as part of their PSHE unit about how local government works. We were welcomed into the Council Chamber by Councillor Susanna Pressel, who is both Chair of the County Council and the councillor for our School's area.

Councillor Pressel told us about how council meetings are run and answered questions about everything from her favourite part of being a councillor (supporting her charities and encouraging more cycling) to her opinions on solar farms.

We were encouraged to get in touch with our own councillors if we have anything we would like improved in our local areas - Councillor Pressel pointed out that the boys are future voters so have influence already. Thank you very much to Susanna, and well done to Form 7 for being so well-informed and interested in how Oxfordshire is run. AF



Form 2 News

Form 2 turned into pizza chefs on Tuesday morning and made their very own pizzas. You could be forgiven for thinking this might be an Italian lesson – mais non! In French this term, one of our topics has been fruit and vegetables - and Form 2 love pizzas, so why not make our own? However, there was a catch: the boys had to be able to say their pizza toppings in French. Was this a problem? Mais non - again!

You will be pleased to know that you will be in safe hands if your sons ever place your pizza orders with a French waiter.

Bravo Form 2! AE-W

Myth Competition

As there is no National Mythology Competition for schools this year, we are having our own – which means that CCCS boys will be winners.

Please encourage your sons to enter. Boys should choose a classical myth (Greek or Roman) and produce a piece inspired by the myth. It could be a retelling, a poem inspired by the myth, a piece of drama, a painting or a model - the entry could even be in the form of a film.

The competition is open to all boys from Forms 3 to 8.

Deadline: Half Term (26th May) NR



Nursery News

It is always wonderful to hear of our pupil's achievements outside of school.

Our Nursery friend, Xander, received his first belt in Martial Arts this week!

Well done Xander. NE



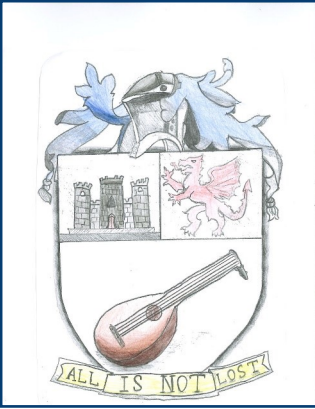
Lost Property



We have a very big Lost Property Chest on the landing near to Form 2.

Please encourage your children to take a look if they have lost any belongings. LK

All Is Not Lost



On Friday and Saturday last week, the 2023 School Play took place in the William Walton Hall – and was it a show! The play was full of emotion, clear delivery, and fantastic performances.

The main plot of the play consisted of a retired knight, named Ambrosius, who was once '*renowned for his prowess in battle and his defence of the poor...*' but is now obsessed with playing his lute; he has gone '*mad with music.*'

One day, two peasants came to the castle – with evidence of a dragon in the neighbourhood. However, Ambrosius was not interested, music was now his calling. Yet the others have not given up on Ambrosius; can he change his musical ways, or will he face the consequences? An epic tale awaits!

Throughout Mr Richards' collection of entirely self-composed plays, this one was the most successful – it gained a huge amount of laughter from the audience (in a good way!) and even greater applause!

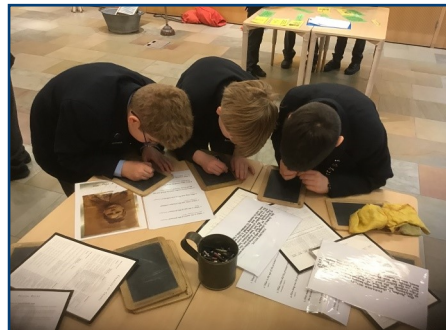
As one of the actors of the play myself, I enjoyed my part greatly, and I am already speculating what Mr Richards will surprise us with next year. Micky Form 7.



Science News

On Monday, Forms 5 and 6 visited Oxford Castle and Prison. They enjoyed climbing the Saxon St George's Tower, one of the oldest buildings in Oxford, and admired the views over the historic city of Oxford.

The stories told in the 900 year-old crypt and the 18th Century Debtors' Tower, plus Prison D-Wing fascinated us. The boys then attended a workshop on Crime and Punishment in Victorian times - and realised how lucky they are to live in Great Britain in 2023! SL



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 and Battersea Cats and Dogs Home.

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

Thank you.



D.T. Corner

Form 3 boys have been busy this term making models of Colossoi of Rhodes.

The boys brought their models to the Office to show us. Thank you, boys!
LK



Trinity Music Exams

Many congratulations to the boys who took music exams this week, as they received fantastic results for their performances on Tuesday. Every single candidate was awarded a Merit or Distinction, which is a quite extraordinary achievement (and we held a special celebration with cookies and hot chocolate to reward these results at break-time yesterday)!



Especially notable were outstanding results for some of our most advanced performers, including Grade 8 Violin with Distinction awarded to William K. Florian S, Martin D and Felix S were all awarded Grade 6 Distinctions and Splendour A was awarded two Distinction results on viola and piano.

Thank you to our brilliant peripatetic staff for teaching the boys so carefully, and to parents at home who have helped supervise practice, too. This exam success is a wonderful credit to the music that goes on in school and I am simply delighted for all the candidates. SB

House Music Competition 2023

I have been speaking to boys about next term's big musical project: the House Music Competition. Instrumental auditions will begin in the first full week of Trinity Term and are open to any boys in Forms 3 to 8. I hope that boys might use the Easter break to start choosing and preparing their audition pieces, with the following guidelines in mind:

Juniors (Forms 3 - 4) - instrumental piece no longer than 3 minutes

Intermediates (Forms 5 - 6) - instrumental piece no longer than 4 minutes

Seniors (Forms 7 - 8) - instrumental piece no longer than 5 minutes

There will also be House songs to learn from April onwards, and parents are warmly invited to the Final in the Cathedral at 1.30 pm on Friday 19th May. It's always an exciting event, so it would be excellent to see lots of you there. If you can't join us in the afternoon, the competition will be professionally live-streamed and available to watch afterwards too.

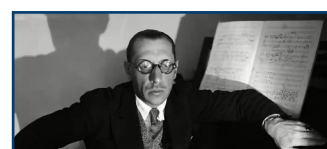
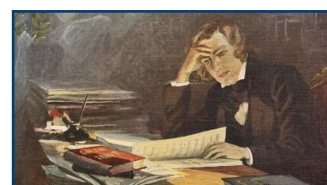
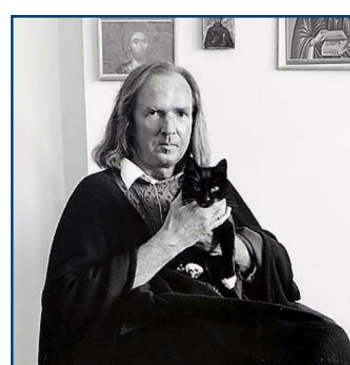
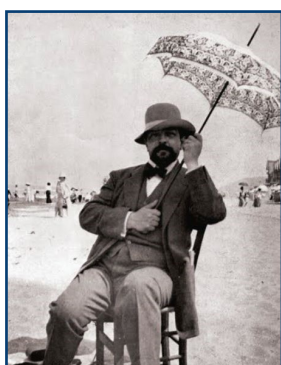
Please encourage your sons to start practising, and have a wonderful break! SB

Easter Challenge

You will probably be familiar with lots of famous paintings and photos of composers and musical performers. I've included some well-known images below, which are (from top left): Claude Debussy, W. A. Mozart, Modest Mussorgsky, John Tavener, L. V. Beethoven, Louis Armstrong, Antonio Vivaldi, Robert Schumann and Igor Stravinsky.

Your challenge over Easter is to recreate the scene in a famous music-related painting or image, take a photo of yourself and send it to biddell.s@cccs.org.uk (along with the original picture so I can see what you were aiming for). Perhaps you have a stylish umbrella like Debussy's, a red jacket like Mozart's, or an obedient cat like Tavener's? You don't have to recreate one of the images below, as I'm very happy for you to find your own quirky ones.

The deadline for entries will be Wednesday 19th April. I hope you have fun and I'm looking forward to seeing some dramatic scenes! SB



Form 3 News



Form 3 had a fantastic adventure in the Botanic Gardens in the rainforest house and arid house on Monday.

It was interesting to compare how the rainforest plants were different to the desert plants.

My favourite part was finding a dragon fruit and the prickly pear cactus. They have prickles to stop animals eating them. The cactus has small holes called stoma which open at night time when it is cooler to take in carbon dioxide. This prevents water loss when it is hot in the daytime! Patrick and Terry

Form I News



To mark British Science Week, Form I went on a trip to Science Oxford Centre. The day was action-packed with scientific discovery and exploration. Working individually and in small groups across the day, the boys had the opportunity to experiment with myriad scientific activities and resources, using their understanding of making predictions, delivering a fair test, and discussing whether their predictions were correct and why.

Activities ranged from working with microscopes, to magnets and forces, thermal imaging and freezing, and even a fascinating experiment called 'Sound Bite' in which the human skull conducted sound when we bit down on a straw and we could hear otherwise inaudible songs playing! In the afternoon, the boys enjoyed an interactive show called 'Wow to Wonder' and we were truly wowed by some visually spectacular experiments involving chemical reactions.

Throughout the day, the boys were completely engaged, and the Science Oxford team reflected that they were impressed with their level of knowledge and their whole-hearted enthusiasm for all of the activities. Well done Form I Scientists!



Meet and Greet - Gary Murphy: Father of Frazer, Reception

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? When I was young, I wanted to be a politician because I was interested in politics. I now work for the Department of Continuing Education at the University of Oxford.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I would go back to New Zealand. Sensational scenery, lovely people, great activities and world-class wine! What's not to like?

Who is your idol? Laurence Dallaglio. He was the reason I played and loved rugby union. Physically strong and emotionally intelligent, he was a great player and captain. Unfortunately, I could only admire his skills, not emulate them!

Favourite city or town and in which season? I love London all year round because there is so much to see and do. As Samuel Johnson once remarked, "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life!"

One thing you would change in the world if you could? I would make political debate more civilised and less simplistic.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? All of my family share a similar sense of humour. Our family dinners can seem a little brutal to outsiders, as we verbally joust with one another. However, this has the positive effect of keeping my ego well and truly in check!

Favourite Book? *'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit'* by Judith Kerr. It is a semi-autobiographical story, from the author of the *'Tiger who came to Tea'*, about her family's experiences of fleeing Nazi Germany. It is a book for adults disguised as one for children!

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be? Having never studied music, I would love to learn to play the saxophone because it sounds great (when played well) and you look cool playing it!

Any advice on how you relax at the weekend? Go out into the countryside, have a long walk and find a nice pub with a log fire. Eat some nice food, enjoy a quiet pint and leave the worrying for Monday morning!

Continuing education is such a great initiative, and what a city to be educated in. I often think children are a bit like a natural form of continuing education without timetables or boundaries. There is nothing more wholesome than a family dinner to keep you measured, it sounds like a brilliant night, I am keen to know if you sit in the same seat every time? I remember returning, as an adult, to a family dinner table and sitting in the same seat that I did as a child - instantly taking me back. I totally agree with you on New Zealand, I am Australian and I find it most annoying that NZ is such a great place, as the competition between the two countries is very much alive. What a landscape! It really does feel like Frodo or Gandalf will suddenly appear, as you drive around the most picturesque mountain. 'The use of travelling is to regulate imagination by reality, and instead of thinking how things may be, to see them as they are' Another great quote from Samuel Johnson. Thank you Gary!

Have a great weekend,
Kathryn