



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 5th May 2023

Dear Parents,

I will be at the Choir Schools Association annual conference in Worcester for two days next week. The Choir Schools Association is an excellent organisation which helps promote the work of those schools at which choristers are educated. There are various issues that are matters of discussion in the choir school world. One is the recruitment of choristers, which very many choirs have found difficult recently. Interestingly, I will be saying that we still have three boys choirs, that singing in the School seems to be a very popular pastime and that our Worcester and Pembroke choirs are very popular at the moment - with increasing numbers as I write. We also have a full set of Probationers for next year in the Cathedral Choir. If your son is keen to sing in one of our choirs, please approach Ms Biddell, who would be pleased to hear from you. It is one of the most remarkable sides to our school, which brings great pleasure to those who sing, and the many who hear them.

Yesterday, I was fortunate enough to attend a seminar given by a wonderful organisation called Into University. Their aim is to support the education of people from more deprived areas. Christ Church is a great supporter of Into Universities Blackbird Leys Centre. Young people there are inspired to take education seriously and are often invited to visit Christ Church itself. We are thinking of ways in which we might be able to support pupils of our boys' age. I think this would be an outstanding brief and I'm certain we could help to inspire the many pupils who come their way. Oxford is an extraordinary place, it has some of the finest educational institutions in the world and yet less than two miles away are some of the most educationally deprived children in the country. I'm sure we could help to address this issue.

I often marvel at the ingenuity of our pupils. I was, as I always am, on break time duty this Thursday morning. Up comes a pupil holding pencil. "Sir would you like to have your Chicken Pox injection?" The smiling boy asked, looking in my direction. I didn't feel certain that the object which he held in his hand looked as if it would supply a potent remedy. Nonetheless it did not detract from the ingenuity of the idea.

It was lovely to see so many of you on Merton Field this afternoon to celebrate the Coronation. Many people were dressed in red white and blue hats and bow ties, carrying red white and blue umbrellas. I managed to find myself a Union Jack apron which caused a degree of comment. I was asked whether I was busy serving Coronation Quiche to the multitudes - and was told that I looked "Stunning!" I suspect there was a degree of irony in the latter comment. Our brass and string groups performed magnificently and Pre-Prep paraded the beautiful crowns they had made. We gave all the pupils a commemorative coin and I hope that they will keep them for many years to come. I have been told by a number of people, older than myself, about the late Queen's Coronation and their memories of that event. I wonder if our pupils will remember this Coronation 70 years hence.

I spoke to the assembled gathering about the fact that two Christ Church Cathedral School Old Boys are featured in the Coronation service. Roderick Williams, the well-known baritone and former Old Boy of the School, is singing early on and has composed some music which will be performed during the ceremony. Roderick is an exceptional singer and I am certain that this will become apparent tomorrow in the Abbey. The final piece of music of the service, before the National Anthem, is the glorious Te Deum by William Walton, one of our most famous Old Boys, after whom our Walton Hall is named. We should all be proud that pupils from our small school have composed two of the pieces of music that are to be performed on this historic occasion.

I very much hope that you all have a wonderful weekend and that you are able to watch the Coronation - maybe even by going to London to join the expectant crowd. May I suggest wearing a Union Jack apron? You too could be deemed "Stunning!"

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

**Trinity 2023**  
**Monday 8th - Sunday 15th May**

MONDAY 8	
6.00	<b>Bank Holiday, School Closed</b> <b>CC/CP: Return</b>
TUESDAY 9	
9.00	Form 8 CE French Listening Exams
10.45	Speaker to visit Form 8 - Graham Barker, Coins and Carausius
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (VWH)
6.15	CC/CP: Evensong at New College
WEDNESDAY 10	
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
2.00	1st & 2nd XI Cricket v The Dragon (Home)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Cricket Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
	GRADES
THURSDAY 11	
All Day	Form 8 CE French Speaking Exams
12.30 - 2.30	Form 1 Trip to The Story Museum
2.00	U8 & U9 Cricket v New College (Home)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
FRIDAY 12	
8.00	CC/CP: Full Choir Rehearsal
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker The Reverend Marcus Green, Chaplain, Worcester College, Oxford
1.30	Year 5 & 6 Athletics Practice (Radley College)
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 13	
SUNDAY 14	<i>The Fifth Sunday after Easter</i> <i>University Fourth Week</i>
10.00	Oxford Town and Gown Fun Run (Staff Team Running)



**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)



## Music News

Congratulations to Worcester Chorister, Arlan, who performed last week in a concert featuring the East Oxford Community Choir and Coro Mortalisatis (a group of Italian singers and musicians from Padua). They were visiting for the first time since Oxford twinned with Padua in 2019.

The concert featured a number of baroque classics played on period instruments. Arlan sang 'Laudamus te' as part of Vivaldi's Gloria, alongside ex-Worcester chorister Ivan (who now holds a Music Scholarship at MCS). The venue was at capacity, around 200 people, with a celebratory meal and a ceilidh afterwards! Well done, Arlan. SB

## House Music Competition



Pupils in the Prep School have made an excellent start to our House Music Competition, the final of which will take place on Friday 19th May. This year's adjudicator will be singer and conductor David McKee, currently Director of Music at Cheltenham College (moving to take up the same role at Charterhouse in September). House songs are being practised carefully, so please do encourage your sons to memorise these at home over the weekend.

A huge number of boys have so far auditioned for a place in the final, sometimes during lessons but often by ambushing me in the practice rooms or even playground! On Tuesday, we passed the 100 audition mark, and it seems likely that more than 200 auditions may take place by the deadline on Friday 12th May. Many boys have given up break times to teach music to their friends; a valuable opportunity to look at the technical demands of their instrument as a teacher rather than as a pupil (and often extremely entertaining).

Please do join us in the Cathedral for the final at 1.30 pm on 19th May, though if you can't make it, a secure livestream can be watched at <https://youtube.com/live/ljSNOH9uptk?feature=share> and will be available online afterwards. SB



**Auditions for NCO 2024 are now open!**

<https://www.nco.org.uk/join-in/auditioning-for-nco>



## London Marathon

Mr Bagnall, our D.T. Teacher, ran in the London Marathon and raised over £300 for 13 Rivers Trust and Battersea Cats and Dogs Home.

Well Done Mr Bagnall! LK



## D.T. Corner

A model of King Arthur's sword, Excalibur, which legend says, he pulled from a stone to become King.

By Mingzi in Form 5



## Form I News

Form I enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Museum of Natural History this week. The boys learnt all about the different animal groups, and were lucky enough to get hands-on with some incredible specimens, from frogs and newts, to snakes, crocodiles, birds of prey, and sharks.

We had the opportunity to sort animals into groups using different criteria, and the boys rose to the task, correctly identifying mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish, and invertebrates. A highlight for the boys was finding out some of the colloquial names used in regions of the UK for the common woodlouse. These included, 'chiggy wigs', 'chucky pigs', 'monkey peas', 'cheesy bugs', 'dandy postmen', 'Billy bakers', 'grandad gravies', and 'flumps'!

After our interactive session in the museum classroom, we had an opportunity to explore the myriad of exhibits on display in the central hall (a selection of the seven million specimens held by the museum). The boys were wowed by the variety of animal life showcased, and returned to school laden with wonderful facts about everything that we had seen. Well done to all our budding Form I Naturalists! TR



## Oxford Town and Gown

To raise money for Muscular Dystrophy and to sponsor the Christ Church Cathedral school runners (Miss Farmer Mrs Green, Madame Loyer and Mrs Merriman) please visit:

[SportsGiving - Sponsor Christ Church Cathedral School in Oxford Town and Gown 2023](#)

**Muscular  
Dystrophy UK**  
Fighting muscle-wasting conditions



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**10k SERIES**  
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## Lost Property

Please ask your children check the box on the landing outside Form 2 for lost items of clothing.

Here are the items in the box at the moment. LK



## Nursery News

It's been a busy week in the Nursery as we have been preparing for our Coronation celebrations. The children are really excited to be having a picnic with the rest of the school and their families.

On Wednesday, we took some time out and headed over to the Meadow to hunt for some signs of spring and enjoy the glorious weather. The daffodils were swaying in the soft breeze and we were very lucky to catch some of the mother cows feeding their babies. KS



## Making the Most of Oxford Club

Out and about in Oxford: This week Reverend Marcus Green welcomed our 'Making the Most of Oxford Club' to Worcester College Chapel where he talked to us about its history and the symbolism of the intricate decorations. Particularly captivating were the carved animals on the end of each pew. Some of the Worcester Choristers showed us where they stand during services. AE-W

Next on the list is a visit to Pembroke College Chapel.



We also visited the Museum of Oxford to find out about the history of marmalade making in Oxford. We learned that Frank Coopers Oxford marmalade holds the royal warrant. Then we headed back to school to do some blind tastings of marmalade.

The boys agreed with the Royal family – Oxford marmalade is the best! AE-W

