



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 26th May 2023

Dear Parents,

It has been a wonderful day today. Merton Field looked at its very best as I followed Pre-Prep over to join in the Fun Run. All of the pupils were dressed as Superheroes – never have I been in the company of so many Supermen – I felt thoroughly protected and safe – until, that was, we arrived at the field only for a cry of excitement to rise up from the massed ranks of Superheroes – a dinosaur had been spotted on the pitches. It did not seem to occur to the superheroes that dinosaurs had become extinct several million years ago – the excitement was palpable. It soon became clear, though that the dinosaur was not real but a costume being worn by one of the pupils. In fact it was not long before the dinosaur had grabbed a water pistol and was trying to soak some of the assembled said Superheroes. In fact the whole event was very colourful. Mr Harrison has recently started going to the gym but even so, I was surprised by the shape of his physique - until I realised he was wearing an Incredible Hulk costume. Madame Loyer had so vivid and extensive a cape that she almost took off, and our Gappers had matching Superhero masks – I am certain that the pupils would not have recognised them! At the sound of a whistle, the pupils headed off into the Woodland School at speed, following the mown paths cut through the carpet of cow parsley. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and we were able to raise a generous amount of money for our two charities, Macmillan Cancer Support and the Angus Irvine Playing Fields Fund.

This charming event, which we haven't held before, was very like Sports Day, which is coming up in the next half of term. Several parents have asked me over the last couple of days about when it is – the date is in the calendar we sent over electronically recently and at the beginning of term but it is SATURDAY 24th June. Please ensure that your children (and ideally you) are available on the morning of that day. It is one of the very few times when the children need to come in on a Saturday. We will see more running and it is an occasion to which almost the whole community attends. Please ensure that Sports Day is in your calendars.

I also enjoyed myself thoroughly watching Form 5 modelling clothes for Pre-Prep. This perhaps sounds unexpected at CCCS but in fact the purpose of the exercise was for Form 5 to describe what they were wearing to the younger boys, in French. I heard many fine French accents and was able to assure myself that our boys know a great deal about the names of various clothes in French but I was not expecting the panache with which many of the boys paraded the length of the Walton Hall. Maybe a Whole School Fashion Show is next!

Mrs Fairhurst and I also spoke to a number of Form 1 parents about the benefits of our Prep School. There was much we were able to say, of course, but our most telling argument was the maturity of the Form 7 boys who showed the parents around. Our senior pupils are remarkable in their civilised maturity and I am so proud of the delightful boys that this school turns out.

I am much enjoying teaching Forms 5 and 6 this year. I am discussing the story of Adam and Eve with Form 5. I asked the boys, before we read the story, what they knew about it. Almost all of them were able to tell me that Adam and Eve ate the apple in the Garden of Eden. I was able to point out to them, once we had read the story, that there is no mention of an apple but instead only of the fruit of the tree of good and evil. Immediately one of the boys put up his hand and said: "That's because the Latin for Bad is "Malum" and the Latin for Apple is "Melum" and in some translations they got them confused. I wonder in how many other schools one would have been told that by a Form 5 pupil.

Half term has arrived and the weather seems set fair. I hope we will all have some wonderful time over the course of the break at this most lovely time of the year. However, it is worth bearing in mind that all the boys in the Prep School have exams the week after half term, including our Form 8s, who have Common Entrance. It is really worth doing some revision over the course of next week. The best approach is to put aside some time every day, preferably in the mornings, to get some revision done. That way, the boys will be more able to do well in the exams.

May I wish you all a wonderful half term and I look forward to seeing you in June.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Trinity 2023

Monday 5th - Sunday 11th June

MONDAY 5	
8.25	Second Half begins
8.30	CC/CP: Rehearsals resume
3.45 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
TUESDAY 6	
	CE Exams
	School Exams
2.00	U8 & U9 Cricket v The Dragon (Away)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 7	
	CE Exams
	School Exams
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
2.30	Senior Cricket v New College (Away)
2.30	Colts Cricket v New College (Home)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Cricket Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
THURSDAY 8	
	<i>Corpus Christi</i>
	CE Exams
	School Exams
10.00 - 1.00	Form 1 Trip to The Rectory Farm
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
FRIDAY 9	
	CE Exams
	School Exams
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker tbc
4.00 - 5.00	After School Cricket Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
SATURDAY 10	
SUNDAY 11	
	<i>The First Sunday after Trinity</i>
	<i>University Eighth Week</i>

CC: IN

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.

Art News

Form 3 have been drawing birds and feathers. With copies of their drawings they have made their own 3D bird creations. They have done really well as you can see.



Form 5 have been making Jon Burgerman inspired characters based on fruit and vegetables using felt and stitch. They have done brilliantly as you can also see. EE



Some Snaps from our Fun Run



House Music Competition

Very many congratulations to boys in the Prep School for a terrific House Music Competition on 19th May. There were nearly 250 auditions on every instrument from the fife to tuba, harp to double bass, and I'm very grateful to our tireless peris for ensuring school Music was on top form for such an important occasion.

For the first time ever, boys chose House song conductors representing all three of our choirs: Matt for Wolsey (Pembroke Chorister), Tom for Sayers (Worcester Chorister) and Felix for Carroll (Cathedral Chorister). A torrential thunderstorm gave us a dramatic start to the Final, but even a roaring flood on St Aldates couldn't dampen the performances of our 30 confident instrumental finalists. Only one point separated the first and second-placed Houses at the end of the afternoon, with Sayers pipping Carroll to the post to win by the narrowest of margins.

Adjudicator David McKee (Director of Music at Cheltenham College, and soon to take up the same role at Charterhouse) praised the characterful, joy-filled performances, and declared CCCS 'the place to go to find some of the best musicians in the country... if not the world'. What a wonderful thing to hear about our pupils. I am so grateful for everyone's hard work and support over half a term of preparations for House Music. Here's to House Music 2024! SB

Junior Instrumental Class

Winner: Alexander (piano) & Patrick (piano)
Runner-Up: Richard (piano) & William (piano)

Intermediate Instrumental Class

Winner: Trust (piano)
Runner-Up: Patrick (oboe)

Senior Instrumental Class

Winner: William (violin)
Runner-Up: Jeremy (trumpet)

Winner of House Singing

Carroll ('Consider Yourself')

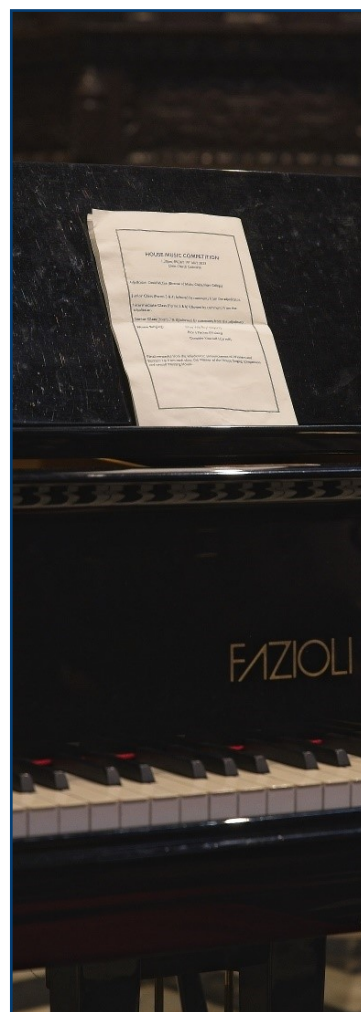
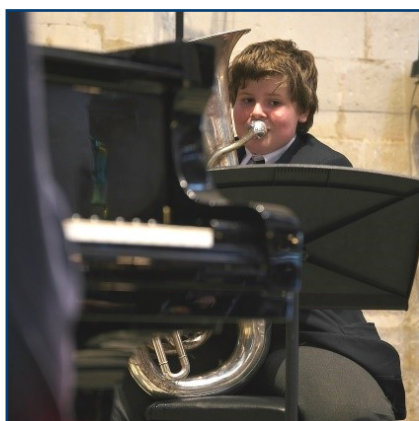
Conductor's Prize

Felix

Overall Winner of House Music

Sayers

House Music Competition Gallery





Auditions for NCO 2024 are now Open!

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





Choir News

On Monday, a choir from Oslo Cathedral came to meet our choristers for a singing session together. They performed traditional Norwegian music with their Director David Maiwald, and our boys sang Handel and Finzi for them. It was a lovely occasion.



It was wonderful to meet a choir from another part of the world, and help to support the precious tradition of boys' singing. SB

Architecture Club

Some sketching of the tower of Nuffield College (a not universally acclaimed post-war addition to Oxford's skyline) from the vantage of Oxford Castle Mound. NR



Myth Competition

The deadline for the Myth Competition is extended to beginning of the second half of this term. Please encourage your sons to enter. (It would be good to see entries from Form 6!) NR



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



D.T. Corner



Sports News

This week saw the whole of the Prep School playing Cricket fixtures. Our Forms 3 and 4 boys played at Ashfold School and Forms 5 - 8 played Abingdon Prep School. On Monday a group of Forms 6, 7 & 8 boys played Tennis against Thorngrove Prep School. It's been fantastic to see all the boys representing the School with such passion and pride. The results may not have gone our way, but I have been impressed with the resilience and competitiveness of all our boys.

Several boys have commented on what they need to improve upon and how determined they are to hone their skills in time for their next match. NH



Form 5 French Fashion Show

Pre-Prep were in for a treat today with our annual Form 5 French Fashion Show. Our defile de mode was filled with daring catwalk moves and brilliant French descriptions of what the boys wore. SL



Making the Most of Oxford Club



The boys in our Making the Most of Oxford Club had an interesting time by the river this week. Mr Murray came with us and acted as our guide to 'The Bumps', the rowing races that take place at this time of year.

Unfortunately, the race that we should have seen was over very quickly as so many bumps had been made, but we did see lots of activity by the boathouses, learnt a lot and had a most enjoyable time in the sunshine! KS

Form I News

Form I made the most of the sunshine with a nature walk around Christ Church Meadow. We were looking at different habitats for living things in our local environment.

The boys spotted lots of habitats including trees, buildings, logs, burrows, fields, wild flower gardens, ponds, rivers, and woodland. We had fun making daisy chains and had a visit from some very inquisitive geese! TR

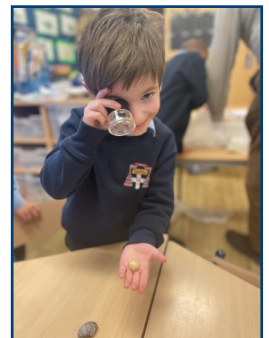


Reception News



Reception rounded off their topic of Fossils for this half term by listening to a talk from Mr Scott on his collection of fossils. The boys enjoyed the presentation and learnt many new interesting facts, among which was that their favourite ammonite grew very large and fossils as wide as two metres have been found. To check out how large this actually is, the children used metre sticks to measure out the vastness of such a fossil!

Afterwards the children had a closer look at some of the variety of fossils Mr Scott had brought with him. These even included dinosaur poo! RF



BEM for Mr Scott



Mr Scott, who is a former CCCS teacher, came fresh from a Garden party at Buckingham Palace. The reason for such a regal invitation... Earlier this month, Mr Scott was awarded the British Empire Medal, by the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, for 40 years of conservation work in the Cotswolds and his work as a Quantock Ranger and volunteering on the West Somerset Railway. RF