



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 9th June 2023

Dear Parents,

This week all of the pupils in the Prep School have undertaken exams. Form 8 have been sitting their Common Entrance and the rest of the year groups their internal exams. Exams are not, of course, everything – far from it! Nonetheless I do believe them to be important. When they get to their senior schools, our boys will be expected to take GCSEs and A-levels and many of them will go on to study at university where, again, they will be faced with exams. When I used to teach at St. Edward's, a school where we send many boys, I frequently noticed that those people who did better in GCSEs were very often those who arrived knowing how to revise and knowing how to take exams. If our pupils can leave this school knowing how to take exams, we will have done them an important service.

I spoke to the boys at the beginning of the week about the importance of exams. One of the other points I made was that the skill of memorising things is a much undervalued attribute. Committing poetry to heart, for instance, allows one to have a relationship with the poem far more intensely than merely reading it from a book. It actually becomes part of you in a way which is profoundly affecting. Few people ever forget those poems they have learnt when they are young. Learning by heart also allows us to understand the world better. To have facts at ones fingertips means that it is far more difficult to be a slave to false news, for narratives not based upon the truth. Knowledge is Power and I am certain that we are equipping our pupils well if we teach them, amongst many other very important things including the all-important ability to reason and analyse, to retain information. In a world where machines will increasingly do our thinking for us, the phrase 'thinking for oneself' has an even more powerful resonance.

But it hasn't all been exam taking. I spent a lovely afternoon on Merton Field on Wednesday, watching Forms 5 and 6 play Cricket against New College. I was delighted, of course, that we won both of the matches I saw! Our 1st team, who were playing away, also won convincingly. I was equally delighted that the boys seemed so enthusiastic about Cricket. As soon as I arrived by the pitches, I was surrounded by people who wished to tell me exactly what they had achieved in the match so far. It did remind me, somewhat, of the accounts of fisherman about the size of their catches but, given the size of the victories which I witnessed, the boys weren't far from wrong! I suspect there will be many other heroic successes yet to come.

Following the exams, many of the pupils will be off on trips. Form I went, this week to Rectory Farm to pick fruit. Unsurprisingly, they returned with mountains of delicious, sweet strawberries which they were all able to take home to their families. Apparently, they had sung a song to a row of beans. I was fortunate enough to hear the song repeated in Pre-Prep Assembly this morning. The idea of this song, which was accompanied by flamboyant gestures, was to encourage the beans to grow in height. Interestingly, it did not have the same effect upon those people sitting in the room, who remained stubbornly the same height. I was delighted at the thought of a people singing to vegetables. After all, there is no end to the benefits of song, of course!

In a lesson following the end of exams, I decided to branch away from the curriculum and set my class some mental challenges. One of these involved me asking a question which led to my being able to predict what animals the boys were thinking of. Many were amazed that I was able to read their minds - always a useful tool for a Headmaster. I was not expecting, however, one of the pupils to respond as he did. "Sir, you are more intelligent than Newton and Einstein combined!" Comments such as these always make a Headmaster feel better even if, in some distant corner of one's mind, one realises that they are not necessarily entirely accurate!

Have a good weekend.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Trinity 2023
Monday 12th - Sunday 18th June

MONDAY 12	
3.45 - 4.45	Form 8 Paintballing at Skirmish Paintball, Finmere
4.00 - 5.00	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
	After School Football Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
TUESDAY 13	
3.00	Form 8 to Barbury Shooting School, Swindon
4.00 - 5.00	Worcester Showcase for all Worcester Choristers
4.30	After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
6.00	Pre-Prep Parents' Evening (SchoolCloud)
	WC: Last Service of Trinity Term
WEDNESDAY 14	
11.00 - 1.15	Form 8 to Rockstar Climbing, Swindon
2.15	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
2.15	Form 4 Trip - Walking Tour (tbc)
3.30 - 4.30	Senior Cricket v Thorngrove (Home) (Return to school approx. 5.00 pm)
4.00 - 5.00	Colts Cricket v Thorngrove (Away) (Return to school approx. 5.15 pm)
4.10 - 6.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
	After School Cricket Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
	Form 4 Tutor Meetings (SchoolCloud)
THURSDAY 15	
2.15	Form 8 Paddle Boarding and Bush Craft, Oxford
4.00 - 5.00	U8 & U9 Cricket v Chandlings (Away) (Return to school approx. 4.00 pm)
6.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
	Information Evening for Normandy Trip (WWH)
FRIDAY 16	
8.30	Form 8 Go-karting and Wet & Wild, Oxford
4.00 - 5.00	Forms 5 - 7 School Exam results
	CE Exam results
	Cathedral Assembly, including Nursery and Pre-Prep, speaker Dr Bradley Wells, Head of Academic Scholarship, Malvern College
	After School Cricket Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
	CC: OUT
SATURDAY 17	
SUNDAY 18	<i>The Second Sunday after Trinity</i>



Chess News

Patrick, in Form 3, represented CCCS in the Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge Megafinal (U8 age group) on Saturday 3rd June.

This is the UK's largest junior chess competition and after playing six rounds, Patrick qualified to enter the Gigafinal winning a silver medal.

Well done Patrick! LK



Form I News

With the sun shining high and bright in the sky, Form I embarked on a trip to Rectory Farm. We were treated to a fascinating tour of the fields and the growing tunnels, seeing all kinds of fruit and vegetables at different stages of growth. We saw gooseberries, raspberries, blackberries, and sweetcorn, amongst other crops, and the boys eagerly shared their planting knowledge from our recent lessons in class.

We were all amazed to find out that the potatoes at Rectory Farm end up making McDonald's French Fries, and the wheat is sent off to make Warburtons bread and crumpets! Following our tour of the farm, the boys were able to independently pick their own fruit, with beautiful ripe strawberries occupying most of the space in their punnets!

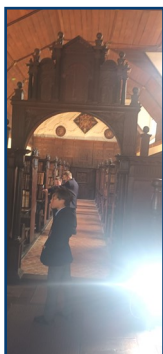
To cap off a wonderful day in the sunshine, the boys played in the Adventure Playground and enjoyed a treat of delicious ice-cream from the farm shop. Well done to our Form I Fruit Pickers extraordinaire! TR



Architecture Club

On Tuesday, our Architecture Club visited Merton College, one of the three oldest Oxford colleges. In Front Quad (which - it could be claimed - is the oldest college quad in Oxford) we considered the magnificent East window of the chapel, famous for being precisely dated at 1294 and being on the cusp of Early English and Decorated Gothic.

In Mob Quad (which is claimed to be the oldest quad in Oxford) we saw the steeply pitched stone roof of the 13th Century Muniments building. Our friendly guide Inigo (named after Jones) gave us a privileged tour of the Upper Library, showing us 16th Century terrestrial and celestial globes, fine botanical drawings, and the one remaining chained book, aptly a book of architectural drawings. Our thanks to Inigo for giving up his time to show us around these special buildings. NR



Pancake Night in the Boarding House



Sports News



We have had another fantastic week of Cricket Fixtures. On Tuesday, our Forms 3 & 4 boys played three matches against The Dragon Prep School. The improvement from our last game was hugely noticeable and Christ Church came away winning two out of the three matches. NH

Our Colts hosted New College School in the glorious sunshine. Batting first, our boys set a good total of 68 off our 12 overs thanks to 13 from Troy, 10 from Eynan and 8 from Henry. Our bowling was good and restricted New College's opportunities to score. Wickets from Troy, Henry and Navraj led us to a convincing win. SP

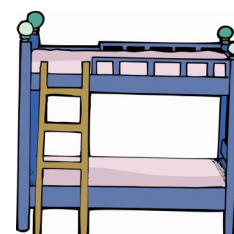
We made the journey to New College School, to compete with both our senior teams, for two games of 16-over Cricket. This was the first time that the 2nd team had been involved in a limited-over game this year, as opposed to the pairs format and they performed excellently. Our boys reduced New College to 90 runs for 6 wickets, due to some brilliant all-round fielding and excellent bowling from William and Jonathon, who grabbed two wickets each. In the end, we narrowly finished 15 runs short of New College's total, with Jonathon excelling with the bat, to keep us within touching distance throughout. A great game to umpire and watch, with lots of positives to take to our next fixture. Man of the match: Jonathon. JH

Playing in perfect conditions our 1st team scored a tremendous 124 off 16 overs, with Jeremy scoring 82 runs - an incredible achievement. With a lightening quick outfield, the bowling and fielding had to be good. Many bowlers contributed with wickets, but Captain Thomas was the pick of them with 5 wickets. We were the eventual winners by 25 runs. NH

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.



Reception News

Reception have been getting into the feeling of summer by starting on their new topic for this half term - The Seaside! We have been looking at features of the seaside and reading the stories of 'The Lighthouse Keeper'.

It has been a busy week and among other tasks we followed some instructions and made Hamish the Cat puppets. We have also been learning (and using) directional language to find our way on a journey. This will be of great use during explorations in the summer! RF



Making the Most of Oxford Club

On a glorious afternoon our 'Making the Most of Oxford Club' was treated to a backstage tour of the Cathedral which included a stroll past the 'Jabberwokky Tree' and Cathedral Bees, a peak out on to the Meadow from the other side of the gate in the Master's Garden and a climb up into the Gallery. Here the boys had a go at operating some of the broadcasting technology and there was also much surprise at the weight of a (small) canon ball which had hit one of the walls during the Civil War! AE-W



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



Nursery News

Sports Day



The Nursery children had great fun working on their lane discipline in preparation for School Sports Day on **June 24th**.

We have lots of speedy runners in our class this year and they are all excited about their upcoming races. See you there! NE

Continents Club



In Continents Club this term the children have been working on making their own globes. Each of the Upper Nursery children have carefully pin punched the shapes of the continents and labelled them.

It's been a really exciting activity and this week we were finally ready to blow up our balls and assemble our finished work. NE

Meet and Greet: Peter Kilby - CCCS Catering Manager

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? When growing up I always loved to get involved with my mum when she was baking and cooking, so I guess it sort of stuck as it's what I do in my daily job now.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? If I could go anywhere in the world it would be Japan as it seems so very different to our country - from the scenery to the food and culture. It would be great to experience it.

Who is your idol? My idol is my Home Economics teacher from my secondary school, Mrs Nelson, who sowed the seed of my enjoying cooking. Mrs Nelson pushed me to become a chef, helping me to get my start in the industry.

Favourite city or town and in which season? My favourite city is Toronto, I've been there in winter in the snow but my favourite season there is autumn, as the colours of the trees are amazing.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? The one thing I would change in the world is probably the speed at which everybody lives. Slow down and enjoy the moment.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? Our family trait is making sure the door is locked three or four times, even when you know you've locked it. My mum passed it on to me - kindly.

Favourite Book? *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*. As a child I must have read it umpteen times and loved getting lost in the story. Then I read it to my children and enjoyed it all over again.

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be? If I could start a new hobby it would be kite surfing. I've been to the coast many times and watched kite surfers, although it looks like so much fun, gliding over the waves, I'm not so sure about the cold sea.

Any advice on how you relax at the weekend? Get up early with a cup of tea and listen to the dawn chorus. Possibly the best time of the day.

Tea, Toronto, Teaching. Having wholesome food, requires a wholesome type of person who is keen to encourage nourishment. I still love hearing that yet another teacher has paved the way forward, we all have one - and we are all benefiting from Mrs Nelson. Get yourself to Maui, Peter, for some kite surfing. Warmer water, plus the ions from the ocean definitely improve the chill - and slow you down. Ever wondered why surfers are so laid back? I'll be honest, Peter makes meal times at home for me much better but sometimes, much worse. My boys will eat jacket potatoes, if Peter has cooked them, his are "Different/better." Thanks Peter. What evenings are you free?

Have a lovely weekend.

Kathryn