



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 16th June 2023

Dear Parents,

It was one of those lovely days today when the whole School community was in the Cathedral. The speaker today was Dr Bradley Wells from Malvern College, who spoke to us about the Inklings, that group of Oxford intellectuals who met together to discuss writing and, between them, produced some of the most enduring works of children's fiction - including 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and 'The Lord of the Rings.' As I am sure you have guessed, the subject of Dr Wells' talk was those popular Oxford writers, JRR Tolkien and CS Lewis. Lewis had gone to School at Malvern, a town which has many gas lamps. Dr Wells thought that one of these could well have been the model for the lamp that Lucy sees when she arrives in Narnia. Another story that Dr Wells told was of an English teacher from Malvern who prevented Tolkien burning much of his writings, despairing as he was at the fact that he was finding it difficult to find a publisher. How different the world of children's fiction would have been without the works of Tolkien. Dr Wells told us that Lewis and Tolkien used to walk along the top of the Malverns with one another and he demonstrated the different ways in which they were accustomed to walk, Lewis with an efficient stride, Tolkien stopping very frequently to admire some bird or flower. Despite this, they were very good companions and the world owes so much to their imaginations and understanding which were honed through weekly discussion with one another.

I was interested in how much the talk captivated the boys who were listening in the Cathedral and I was very struck by their enthusiasm as they left, thanking Dr Wells profusely - he was very struck by their politeness and positivity. One boy even told us that he had been reading a book about birds and that one of the birdwatchers featured in the book had been based at Malvern...

Form 8 spent this week undertaking various character building exercises including paint balling, clay pigeon shooting, rock climbing and water sports. They have all enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The week ended in their receipt of their Common Entrance results. They have all, without exception, done very well and were thrilled. This year group has been a delightful cohort of boys who have been an immensely close-knit group and we will miss them very much when they leave us. Although I have been in teaching for over three decades now, I never quite get used to the fact that, each year, a school loses its oldest pupils, some of whom have been there for a very long time. It is a terrible loss, of course, given how well we know them but, almost always, they are ready to go and if they weren't ready to go then we would not have done our job properly!

Much of this week, a number of pupils have spent their time on Merton Field. These boys were not there to run around, but to rehearse for a play, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The Play will be performed on Merton Field, with our Woodland School as the backdrop. What a wonderful spectacle this will be. I very much hope that you will be able to come and watch on Monday afternoon. You are encouraged to bring a picnic for afterwards. Who indeed could resist the temptation of attending a play by Shakespeare designed to be performed on Midsummer's Night (we'll be two days early) next to a wood, where the play's action begins, though this one in Oxford, the one in the Play, Athens. See you there!

And then there's the Art Exhibition on Friday afternoon, after a two-day visit by a professional artist. The theme is Art inspired by Music, I will be so intrigued to see what the boys are able to produce following the sessions. Please do make the effort to drop in – there is so much talent here.

Talent was also much in evidence in Pre-Prep, where I saw some of the boys had made presents for Fathers' Day. I was about to tell you what the presents are - but I suspect that doing so will ruin the surprise! Anyhow, I hope all CCCS fathers have a wonderful day this Sunday and find their presents both beautiful and useful! As William Morris the great designer said: "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful."

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Trinity 2023
Monday 19th - Sunday 25th June

MONDAY 19	
9.00 - 11.00	Form 8 Leavers' Photographs
1.15	Pre-Prep Moving Up Afternoon
2.30 - 4.00	Forms 7 & 8 Sports Teams Photographs
3.45 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
5.30	A Midsummer Night's Dream Performance (Merton Field)
TUESDAY 20	
12.45 - 1.45	Form 4 Alice Walking Tour
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 21	
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
1.00	Reception Vision Screening
2.15	Colts Cricket v The Dragon (Away) (Return approx. 4.30 pm)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Cricket Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
THURSDAY 22	
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
FRIDAY 23	
	Prep School Induction Day
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker the Reverend Canon James Mustard, Precentor Exeter Cathedral
4.00 - 5.00	After School Cricket Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
4.00 - 5.30	Art Exhibition (WWH)
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 24	<i>The Birth of John the Baptist</i> Sports Day
SUNDAY 25	<i>The Third Sunday after Trinity</i>



This term's Music exams will take place on Friday 23rd and Monday 26th June.

If your son has an exam, please remind him to check the schedule by the practice rooms to find out his time. SB



Friends and Family Concert

Our annual Friends and Family Concert will take place on the evening of Wednesday 5th July in the Walton Hall. The aim is to get as many people involved as possible, so do please get planning (and practising!)



This is the opportunity for: Pupils to perform duets with each other, Parents to perform with their children
Family ensembles to play together.

...and any other combinations you can think of. The only rules are that all performances must involve at least one other person, and that boys should organise and rehearse these themselves. I am of course happy to accompany and give advice as needed. Please email biddell.s@cccs.org if you or your son(s) would like to perform! SB

Harrow Singing Project Visit



On Wednesday, a group of 40 children from London primary schools came to work on their singing at CCCS, meet our choristers, and sing in the Cathedral. The children are all participants in a scheme run by Harrow School under the leadership of Tom Moy, former Cathedral Chorister. Mr Moy was accompanied by Chris Tolman, Harrow Housemaster, and a previous director of the College Choir at Christ Church. It was wonderful to welcome back such good friends of the college, and to support the singing of children in London who came to learn with us. Eight Cathedral choristers performed alongside the visitors at a lunch-time concert, and were great ambassadors for CCCS throughout the morning.

On a personal note, it was wonderful to have - in one day - welcomed a former pupil back with his own pupils, but also to have hosted a Boarding House sleepover with five new chorister probationers, who will be starting in September. The Boarding House has been an especially busy and happy place this week! SB

Rugby Orchestral Workshop



Our senior instrumentalists spent Saturday morning in a workshop with Richard Tanner and Rebecca Taylor from Rugby School.

It was wonderful to do some ensemble playing together and hear all about life as a Music scholar at Rugby, too.

Many thanks to Rugby for sending its brilliant music staff to work with our pupils! SB



Worcester Showcase



Congratulations to our Worcester Choristers for putting on a terrific Showcase this Tuesday.

The boys had been carefully prepared by Mr Hallam to present a programme of solo songs, featuring music from the Baroque period to the present day.

Every performance was delivered confidently, and it was excellent to see the Walton Hall filled with such a supportive audience too. Well done all! SB



'Old Girl' News

It is always good to hear from former pupils and to find out what they have been up to since leaving CCCS.

Tiana Harvey attended the Nursery from 2010-2011 and came back this week to help out in Pre-Prep for some work experience. It was lovely to have her join us, the children all enjoyed the presence of a 'big girl' in the classroom. NE



Form 2 News



Form 2 boys have been busy in the garden lately. Here are our strawberries and the Borlotti and runner beans we planted a few weeks ago - the new shoots have already appeared, right in time for Father's Day! EF

Form 3 News

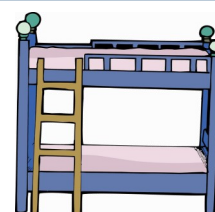
Some of Form 3's completed bird creations. They will be at the Art exhibition next Friday. EE



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.





French News

This week Form 2 practised the days of the week, playing a playground game called 'Le facteur n'est pas passé'. "This is a bit like "Duck, duck goose, Mme Williams!" the boys chorused.

Meanwhile, in Form 1, our topic has been les glaces and the boys queued up for une glace à l'eau from the stall in the playground. Business was brisk for the ice-cream vendors, Arthur and Peter, who were handing out des glaces au cassis and à la pomme – but they had to check, if we were able to ask in French, of course! AEW



Form 5 'Team Building'



Summer Art Exhibition 'Musical Journey'

Private view: Friday 23rd June 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm
in the William Walton Hall.

The Exhibition is also open during school hours, 26th – 28th June.

Live music responses to the artwork.

Refreshments will be provided.



Sketching the Radcliffe Camera



The boys in our Architecture Club enjoyed attempting to catch in pencil this icon of the University, the earliest example in England of a circular library.

In an ideal world we had discussed Palladio and Gibbs, but in this one we simply enjoyed the atmosphere. NR

D.T. Corner



SUMMER HOLIDAY SOCCER SCHOOLS 2023



Mon 24 - Thur 27 July

Windrush Primary, WITNEY

Mon 31 July - Thur 3 August

New Beaconsfield Hall, SHIPTON

Mon 7 - Thur 10 August

Windrush Primary, WITNEY

Mon 14 - Thurs 17 August

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THE ORATORY

ROWING CAMP 2023

Wk 1: Monday 10 - Thursday 13 July

Wk 2: Monday 17 - Thursday 20 July

Time: 9.30am - 3.30pm

with **SAM ROYSTON**,
The Oratory's OSBC Rowing Coach



This 4 day camp is for 11-13 year old boys and girls who wish to learn to row. It is run to the highest safety standard from The Oratory Boathouse in Whitchurch, on the River Thames.

For more information and to book,
please email: reservations@oratory.co.uk

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