



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents,



It was delightful to be back in the Cathedral again earlier this morning. One of the particular pleasures was the presence of our Chaplain, The Revd Philippa White who has been away on maternity leave. She has returned with a young daughter, Meg, whom we look forward, very much, to meeting before long. As ever, the service ended with the Chaplain pronouncing a blessing upon the School; we are indeed blessed to have a Chaplain who cares so much about the School.

I spoke to the boys about the recent prison escape from Wandsworth, during which a suspected terrorist who was being held managed to strap himself onto the bottom of a lorry which was delivering food to the prison. The lorry drove carefully out of the prison, smoothly transporting the prisoner to freedom. This prompted me to reflect upon the natural human desire for freedom, a concept which is central to the essence of being a human. Freedom is what lies behind moral choices and I wanted the boys to know that education enables them to make free choices and thus to realise their true potential. My talk was also an excuse to tell the boys about some of those people who escaped from Colditz Castle during WWII – some of the most daring and ingenious escapes in history!

Talking about security, over the course of the summer we have had various works carried out in the School, including the erection of some extra gates and some higher walls. This is, of course to ensure that our pupils are as safe as possible. I must say the gates have been beautifully made.

After the Assembly, a large number of parents went to the Priory Room for coffee and conversation. It was lovely to see a number of new faces and to be reacquainted with regulars after the summer break. It is a wonderful way to get to know other parents, so many of whom remark upon the pleasure of going to the Cathedral on Friday mornings. We have a number of excellent speakers this term all of whom will be worth hearing. Please look in the final version of the calendar, which will be sent to you early next week, for details.

May I draw your attention to two important events coming up, firstly our Prep School Parents' Drinks at 6.00 pm on Friday 15th September and secondly our Pre-Prep Coffee Morning at 8.45 am on Wednesday 20th September, in the Pre-Prep playground. Both occasions are to allow parents to meet one another and to meet our staff. It is so important to be able to put faces to names. Do please come.

There is a certain degree of irony in the fact that for much of the summer England has been sitting under a pall of cloud whereas the moment we return to school, the temperatures have shot up to the warmest for the year. As it happens, it has been lovely. There has been a really positive sense about the place, symbolised by the glorious light and I have no doubt that it will be a dazzling year. The only real issue for me was when I took my Squash Club on Thursday afternoon. I do not believe I have ever stood on a hotter squash court, the glass on the roof just magnifying the already blazing temperatures. Nonetheless, the boys were full of enthusiasm – I realise even at this early stage, that I will have to train hard if I am going to keep my racket ahead.

Talking of clubs, we are introducing a new set of After School Clubs, masterminded by Mr Harrison. I notice that a large number of boys are signed up to them which is excellent news. As well as Football, Rugby, Chess and Ancient Greek we are adding Mandarin, and LAMDA Club is being introduced, weekly, as part of a school day. Though Mandarin has now been overtaken by English as the most spoken language in the world, it is still one which gives access to a large percentage of the world's population. Mr farmer is introducing LAMDA, a course which promotes acting and public speaking. I would thoroughly recommend this course. There are awards which one can take and awards mean qualifications.

One of the wonderful things about teaching is that one always feels renewed by the beginning of a new term. One can open, as it were, a fresh page and undertake to do everything perfectly this time around. It has always seemed this way even though, I worked out over the summer, when it is your 100th term of teaching. Maybe by now some realism should have kicked in – but actually I still feel just as excited about the new opportunities as I did when I started my 1st term a third of a century ago! Gosh time flies!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2023

Monday 11th - Sunday 17th September 2023

MONDAY 11	
	Form 8 CAT-4 Tests
	Form 7 Climbing Trip - Postponed
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 8)
4.30 - 5.30	Ancient Greek Club (Forms 7 & 8)
TUESDAY 12	
	Form 7 CAT-4 Tests
8.30 - 2.00	Form 6 Team Building Activities (Youlbury Scout Camp)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Rugby Club (Forms 3 - 8)
WEDNESDAY 13	
All Day	Stone Age Day Trip to Hill End (Forms 3 & 4)
2.30	Forms 5 & 6 Rugby v The Dragon (Home)
2.30 - 4.30	Form 8 Trip to Oxford Playhouse 'Blood Brothers'
3.55 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)
THURSDAY 14	<i>Holy Cross Day</i>
	Form 6 CAT-4 Tests
4.10 - 5.00	After School Multi Skills (Sports) Club (Form 2)
FRIDAY 15	
	Form 5 CAT-4 Tests
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker The Revd Philippa White, Chaplain
4.10 - 5.00	After School Rugby Club (Reception - Form 2)
6.00 - 7.30	Staff and Prep School Parents' Meeting (WWH)
	CC: OUT
SATURDAY 16	
SUNDAY 17	<i>The Fifteenth SUNDAY After Trinity</i>

Pre-Prep After School Care

**has been extended and will now finish
at 5.30 pm. LK**

Important Notices

Games Kit

It is really important that all boys from Forms 3 – 8, in addition to their required Games kit, have the following equipment for every Games session. Please would you also ensure that all kit is clearly named.

- Mouth Guards (Forms 4 – 8 only, these must be moulded at home)
- Football boots
- Boot bag
- Water bottle

During the Rugby season, it is a legal requirement from the RFU that all boys must wear a mouth guard whilst participating in rugby sessions. If your son comes to school without a mouth guard we will issue him with a temporary one and parents will be billed £5. This will also apply to water bottles. It is essential that all boys have water bottles in school; if a pupil consistently doesn't have a water bottle, the school will provide one at a cost of £10.

School Uniform

Please would you ensure that all pupils come to school in full school uniform. If the weather is deemed too hot, staff will allow Prep School boys to remove their jackets and ties to make them feel more comfortable. Please may we ask that all boys wear all-black, clean, school shoes with their school uniforms - not trainers.

School Arrival Time

Please can we ask that day pupils arrive at school no earlier than 7.45 am, unfortunately, we cannot provide supervision before this time. If your child is late to school (arrives after 8.45 am, please report to the School Office to be registered).

Prep (Homework)

This year we will be implementing a new system where each boy will be given a Prep Diary. The boys currently have a temporary one and we hope that the official ones will arrive next week. Boys will be responsible for writing down what homework they have each day. Prep Diaries will also be used to communicate with parents and to record Merits, Pluses and Sanctions. This replaces the old system on Teams. NH

Bikeability

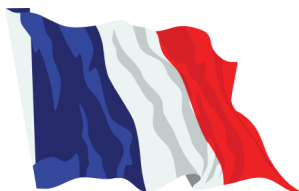


Bikeability Levels 1 & 2 combined course will happen on the following dates: 3rd, 5th, 10th and 12th October 2023. There will be a total of around 8 hours training. Cycling/road safety skills will be continually assessed during the course. On successful completion, a Level 1 or Level 2 badge and certificate will be awarded

We strongly encourage all boys who are *at least 9 years old* on the first day of the course, and who have experience of riding a bike with good control, to attend this course if they haven't already done so in the past.

If you would like your son to join the course, please email Mme Loyer: loyer.s@cccs.org.uk before Friday 15th September. Thank you. SL

Immersion Trip To France



We are delighted to be launching a full immersion trip to Normandy, France next July 2024. Pupils will be staying at 'Château de Chantereine', a historic 17th Century mansion, located in Criel-sur-Mer in upper Normandy. The accommodation is set in four acres with a multipurpose sports complex and plenty of classrooms.

All activities, visits and tours will be led in French. The pupils will be encouraged to speak French at all times, even during meal times.

Boys will receive booklets to reinforce the French they have learnt and be provided with key phrases, vocab, exercises and puzzles to complete at the end of each activity.

If you would like your son to go on the trip, please email Mme Loyer: loyer.s@cccs.org.uk before Monday 18th September. Thank you. SL

Music News



Trinity Term ended with a wonderful series of musical celebrations. We had superb music exam results, with 16 Distinctions and 10 Merits (including two Grade 8s at Distinction for two Form 8 boys). The Walton Hall hosted a memorable Friends and Family Concert on the last Wednesday of term, and I'm so grateful to everyone who contributed such eclectic and entertaining performances to this very special event... the photograph captures the energy of the evening!

On the last day of term, boys presented an impressive programme at our Prizegiving Concert. There is a recording of the final item - Handel's 'Zadok the Priest' sung by pupils in Forms 5, 6 and 7 which is available online, for those who would like to hear it again:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBPEsfe4eZs>

Our Cathedral Choristers have already begun rehearsals, and members of our Worcester and Pembroke choirs will be back in action very soon. CCCS has three different choirs with a range of commitment requirements, and for boys who enjoy singing they offer an excellent musical training. Being a chorister also gives an extraordinary opportunity to participate in the cultural life at three Oxford colleges. Please do email me: biddell.s@cccs.org.uk if you would like to consider choristership for your son - I would be delighted to discuss the options with you. Wishing everyone a happy and musical Michaelmas Term! SB



Flexi-Boarding

We offer flexi-boarding for £63.00 per night.

If any of our parents would like to use this facility, please contact Mrs Kemp:

registrar@cccs.org.uk.



Lost Property

Clearly named belongings are always very much easier to reunite with their owners. However, we do have a Lost Property Box outside Form 5 Classroom, please remind your children to take a look if they have lost anything. LK