



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 15th September 2023

Dear Parents,

The Roman writer, Seneca, wrote that "Travel and change of place impart new vigour to the mind" and it was very much my hope, therefore, that I would find a whole collection of vigorous minds waiting for me when I returned to CCCS after the summer holidays. Indeed this was very much the case and the buzz of mental excitement has been electric – what a truly wonderful place this school is.

This was reinforced on Thursday when Ms Skipwith organised a presentation of the best entries for the travel writing competition that she had set for the holidays. Adam, sporting a tropical shirt, told us about his trip to Singapore where he had encountered a number of extraordinary sights including the waterfall which dominates one of the airport halls. Adam had experienced so much in this tiny City State including an ice cream seller who had been plying his delicious wares for over 30 years. Meanwhile, Micky, who had visited the island of Crete, told us of some of his family traditions which include diving for objects lying on the seabed. He showed us a collection of beautiful delicate shells which he had personally collected from this subaqueous world. Finally, George, sporting a fashionable French beret, showed us some wonderfully entertaining photographs of himself standing near various well-known Parisian landmarks. The whole expedition seems to have been punctuated by the consumption of Croque Monsieurs (or is it Croques Messieurs in the plural? Help, Mme Loyer!) a particularly tasty form of ham and cheese toastie. It was a huge pleasure to listen to such perceptive descriptions about foreign places and to see the impact of these places upon the travellers. Thank you so much to all those budding travel writers who took part and to Ms Skipwith for inspiring so many boys to put pen to paper.

"Sir!" said one of the pupils who joined CCCS this term when I sat down next to him at lunch, "This is the first time I have ever sat next to a teacher at a lunch in school." I looked rather surprised. "You see, normally teachers sit with teachers and pupils sit with pupils – but not here." He's right. As I said to him, "It's always good for me to sit next to boys because we all learn things." In fact I don't think that I have ever had lunch at CCCS when I haven't learnt something – it is not just in lessons where learning occurs....

Talking of learning opportunities, I was fortunate enough to have been out on Merton Field on Wednesday when our Form 6 took on The Dragon. I had been told by Mr Harrison that the boys had had very little practice and that the outcome would be "unpredictable." In the event, our A team played with real class making some fantastic passes and some blistering runs. I was so proud of them. They won with flying colours. The B team was not quite as successful but again there were some tremendous performances. We are very fortunate that we have been joined on the sports pitches by Mr Pear and Mr Boarder who have already shown their worth by their splendid coaching. In the match that Mr Boarder was refereeing, one of the players, aware that he was not going to catch one of his opponents who was speeding towards the line, stuck his foot out causing the runner to trip. The whistle blew: "Right boys," explained Mr Boarder, "That was a learning opportunity!" Mr Boarder has not been in the profession for as long as some but he is already someone who sees lessons wherever he turns!

The Thursday of the second week of term is one of my favourite days of the year for it is the day that the Cathedral Choir returns to duty after the summer break and it was a thrill to hear again, after more than two months, the sound of treble voices. There are few experiences as remarkable as hearing an English cathedral choir in an English cathedral and I hope that all of you will take the opportunity to do so at some stage during this year. Though the choir has only been together again for just over a week, they sounded remarkably harmonious. What joy awaits us.

I live ten minutes' walk away from the School, on the other side of the Thames. At 9.05 every evening Great Tom, the great mediaeval bell in Tom Tower, rings out across the City 101 times. I can hear it very clearly from where I live, despite the traffic, so deep is its tone. The tradition of tolling the bell developed in order to let the scholars of Christ Church know that they had to be back in college before the gates were locked up, which would happen on the 101st toll. I was reminded of this when a boy arrived at Brewer Street the other morning at 8.00 sharp. His mother said "We try to arrive when the 8 o' clock bell is tolling and we normally do." What a tremendous accompaniment to the start of a day!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2023

Monday 18th - Sunday 24th September 2023

MONDAY 18	Form 7 ISEB Pre-test Mock
8.30	Form 5 trip to Youlbury Scout Camp (Boys to arrive by 8.15 am)
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 19	Form 6 ISEB Pre-test Mock
All Day	Form 7 trip to Reading Museum and Silchester
4.10 - 5.00	After School Rugby Club (Forms 3 - 8)
WEDNESDAY 20	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming Begins
8.45	Pre-Prep Parents' Coffee Morning (Pre-Prep Playground)
11.45 - 12.45	Masterclass with Sarah Baldock, Director of Music, Winchester College (WWH)
2.30	Forms 5 & 6 Rugby v Chandlings (Away)
3.55 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)
7.30	Parents' Forum: Future Schools (WWH)
THURSDAY 21	<i>Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</i>
	Spelling Screening Tests for Prep Boys
2.30	Forms 3 & 4 Rugby v APS (Away)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Multi Skills (Sports) Club (Form 2)
FRIDAY 22	Cathedral Assembly, Eucharist
4.10 - 5.00	After School Rugby Club (Reception - Form 2)
	CC: OUT
SATURDAY 23	
4.45	CC/CP: Full Choir Rehearsal
6.00	CC/CP: RSCM Festival Evensong
SUNDAY 24	<i>The Sixteenth SUNDAY After Trinity</i>

Contact Details - Changes

This is notice especially important for families who have recently joined us from abroad.

Please may I remind parents that if the contact details (Home Address, Email Address, Telephone Number) we hold for you have changed, to let me know so that I can update our database.

Thank you. LK

Form 6 at Youlbury Scout Camp

Form 6 enjoyed their team-building activities at Youlbury Scouts Camp on Tuesday. They learned to throw 'Angels' and 'Tomahawks' - but were warned not to try this at home!

The boys also experienced being on a 3G swing, while their friends united to bring them as high up as they could. 'Face your fears, trust your friends and enjoy the moment' would be a good summary.

Now Form 6 are ready for any challenges ahead in this school year! SL



Bikeability

We have one space left on our Bikeability Course (Forms 5 - 8).
The deadline to register is Monday 18th September. SL



Immersion Trip To France

The deadline to register (Current Forms 5 - 7) for this trip
is Monday 18th September. SL



Making the Most of Oxford Club

Our Making the Most of Oxford Club began the term by revisiting the Museum of Oxford.

This time, we looked at the Library of Objects and learned about the history of the covered market, the Oxford sausage, the history of flight in Oxford and more! KS



Safer Cycling

While we are delighted to see so many boys cycling into school, may we kindly remind you that we expect all cyclists to be wearing helmets and hi-vis vests/jackets.

As the weather is changing, please be ready to give your sons a pair of gloves, an under helmet cap, and do remember to check that your son's bike has lights which are in working order. We would also highly recommend the boys commute with a very light bag and a hi-vis bag cover. SL



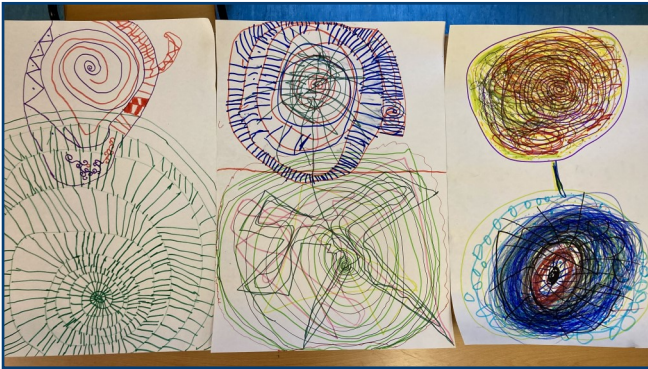
Flexi-Boarding

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.

Form 2 News

We have had a lovely week settling back into school life in Form 2.

In Art this week, the children have taken inspiration from spirals we see in nature, such as snails, using a mix of colouring pencils and felt-tips. MHW



Forms 3 & 4 Trip to Hill End

Forms 3 and 4 went to Hill End where a guide took us to a campsite. There, we first travelled back in time to the Old Stone Age (the Palaeolithic Era). We built a shelter out of wooden sticks and leather. After we had all climbed into it, Mrs Fletcher threw water at us. Almost all of us got soaked! We also used sticks to hunt animals. Luckily, what we caught was an old wild boar skin.

After break, we travelled forward in time to the New Stone Age (the Neolithic). Hill End has a Neolithic house made out of sticks, reeds and mud (as well as animal poo). In the Neolithic Era, we made flour by putting wheat on a stone and grinding it with another stone; we baked bread on sticks on an open fire; we made axes out of wood and a rock tied on with rope; and we also made a Neolithic wall out of woven sticks.

Finally, travelling to the Bronze Age, we ground wheat with a wheel made of two rocks and saw an amazing demonstration of how to make a weapon by heating bronze, turning it into a liquid and then pouring it into a mould.

All of us (including Mr Badger) thought the trip was really good and was super duper fun. By Form 3



Nursery News

Nursery children are enjoying exploring the Nursery environment. The garden is providing lots of opportunities for open-ended play with our loose objects and mud kitchen materials.

The children are working with great imagination in the block play area, our new intentionally prepared part of our Nursery Classroom. Having materials accessible and available all of the time makes such a difference as children include brick play in their days. The children are beginning to own the area, learning how to care and construct independently, and collaboratively. HB



Putting 'candles' on cakes



Our amazing 'city'



Our Mud Kitchen



Our Dinosaur Hospital

Pre-Prep News

Our Pre-Prep children have brought a huge amount of energy and enthusiasm back with them from their summer holidays, and they have been wowing us all with their thirst for learning. All of the children have settled in very well and we have a happy and buzzing Pre-Prep body.

On Tuesday afternoon, we enjoyed a lovely walk around Christ Church Meadow. The boys were tasked with working in teams to spot different animals and plants, and then to tell us facts about what they had found. We talked about why we could not see birds' nests as easily in September, why worms were harder to find at the moment than in wetter periods, and why spider webs were easier to spot in the mornings. We talked about how unseasonably hot and dry weather affects our natural surroundings, and what we would expect to see around the Meadow as the seasons changed. As we were talking about the need for more rain, right on cue, the skies opened, and we dashed back to school. We may have ended up a little damp, but our spirits remained high. Well done Pre-Prep on completing your first full week back! TR



Lost Property

Clearly named belongings are always very much easier to reunite with their owners.

We do have a Lost Property Box outside the Walton Hall. Please remind your children to take a look if they have lost anything.



Thank you. LK

Rugby News

On Wednesday, our U11 boys played two fantastic games against The Dragon on Merton Field. Our B team showed huge courage and skill, developing and growing in confidence throughout the match. By the time the final whistle was blown, our boys were working well as a team and making some superb tackles. We also realised that running straight was the best course of action and ran in many tries with this tactic. Notable performances from Gintas and Robin - and player of the match goes to Micha. Well done all!

Our U11 A team faced The Dragon in a fiercely competitive Rugby match. Exceptional teamwork and effort led to a narrow victory for our boys. Both teams showed unwavering determination from the start, creating an intense contest. The Dragon tested our defence, but our players tackled with resilience. In the second half, our U11 As continued their cohesive play, gaining territory. In the closing moments, our team broke through The Dragon's defence, securing a vital try and earning a hard-fought victory. The entire squad's commitment and skill were evident - with a special mention to Ludo's tackling throughout the match. NH

