



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 29th September 2023

Dear Parents,

It was a great pleasure to see Nursery and Pre-Prep in the Cathedral this morning. There is something very special about having the whole school together in one place. I take it for granted that boys and girls as young as three can sit through a Cathedral service without causing a major disturbance – but, when one thinks about it, it is quite a remarkable achievement. I strongly believe that if you have high expectations of children, they will achieve them. In our case, we expect pupils to be able to sit still and listen in places such as cathedrals. I think this ability is perhaps more important than we realise. Without the ability to concentrate, there is very little that someone can achieve, particularly anything which requires careful thought or intricate distinction. So much human advance and development is based on the ability to think carefully about things and the earlier one is able to do this the better. It being Michaelmas day today, I spoke about St Michael and his defeating of the dragon. I was talking about this story when I noticed one boy's eyes increase dramatically in size. He then seized the hand of the teacher sitting next to him. As he said to me later, "Mr Murray – your story about the Dragon was SCARY!" Fortunately, another boy revealed to everyone very soon afterwards that dragons don't actually exist. There was a palpable sense of relief. I'm so pleased that we managed to clear that point up! There's enough to be concerned about without having to worry about the odd dragon!

This year, we have decided to take each year group in the Prep School out of school for a team building exercise. Every member of staff who has taken a trip has remarked upon how important this has been and how much it has contributed to the new boys fitting in to their year groups. I have been particularly struck by how quickly our new pupils have settled in and how happy they all seem to be.

I was delighted to be able to appoint a number of boys to important positions of responsibility this morning. At this time of year our Form 8s have to step up and help the staff to ensure that the school runs smoothly. We ask staff to observe how the boys perform and, combined with what we already know about them, we choose who will be the officers. (see the announcement and photograph on Page 6). It is one of the most important qualities of a prep school that it provides an opportunity for its senior pupils to take responsibility in their final year. The effect of this is profound. Rather than being the most junior pupils in a large school, they become young adults, who importantly contribute to the atmosphere and character of the place and it is unsurprising that boys who have been to schools such as ours, have a maturity about them which many of their contemporaries do not enjoy. Very many congratulations to these boys and to all of the Form 8s who have supported them by creating such a positive atmosphere in their year group.

We are, once again, running Bikeability courses for our pupils this term. Within a very short while of advertising the course, the places were taken up. This is hugely encouraging. Happily, more and more pupils are travelling to and from school by bike. The advantage of this time-honoured way of getting around in Oxford goes without saying and I would encourage parents to consider bringing pupils to school by bike if they possibly can, especially given that the Botley Road will now not open again until October next year, according to the Council. I was amused to hear one of the Pre-Prep boys say with great excitement yesterday: "Look there's Mr Mirko. He drives the Botley Bus." (it's wonderful that even our youngest pupils appreciate the power of alliteration!) Indeed, our bus from North Oxford which now calls at Frideswide Square to collect children from the other side of the railway bridge, is very well used. Do get in touch with the office if you wish your child to join us on the "Botley Bus!"

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

**Michaelmas 2023**  
**Monday 2nd - Sunday 8th October**

MONDAY 2	
1.30	Form 7 Climbing Trip
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 8)
4.10 - 5.00	Ancient Greek Club (Forms 7 & 8)
TUESDAY 3	
	Bikeability, Level 1
2.00 - 3.00	Junior House Cross Country
4.00	CC: Beginning of Term Photograph - Postponed until 10th October
4.10 - 5.00	After School Rugby Club (Forms 3 - 8)
WEDNESDAY 4	
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
2.30	Forms 7 & 8 1st Team Rugby v Bruern Abbey (Away)
2.30	Forms 7 & 8 2nd Team Rugby v Bruern Abbey (Home)
3.55 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)
THURSDAY 5	
	National Poetry Day Celebration (All Year Groups)
	Bikeability, Level 2
8.00 - 9.00	PC: Rehearsals Begin (then every Tuesday and Thursday)
9.30	Individual School Photographs (WWH)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Multi Skills (Sports) Club (Form 2)
FRIDAY 6	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, Speaker The Very Revd Professor Sarah Foot, Dean of Christ Church
2.30	Rugby v Windmill School (Home)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Rugby Club (Reception - Form 2)
	CC: OUT
SATURDAY 7	
SUNDAY 8	<i>The Eighteenth SUNDAY After Trinity</i> <i>University First Week</i>
5.30	PC: Services Begin
6.00	WC: Services Begin

## ABYSO Concert, 16th October: Save the Date!



In school, we are preparing for an extremely exciting concert coming up next month. The Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO) will be performing in the Cathedral alongside a choir drawn from boys in the Prep School. Established five years ago under the guidance of the Kanneh-Mason family, the ABYSO has opened up exciting new opportunities for orchestral playing in Antigua, and it's intended that it will become a hub for classical music across the Caribbean. Some parents may remember my work for this scheme last year, and I am very moved that CCCS musicians will be able to share a performance with the ABYSO during its very first trip abroad.

The concert will take place in the Cathedral at **12.00 noon on 16th October**, and will last just under an hour. Parents are very welcome to attend, and I hope that this will prove a fantastic event for all involved. The programme includes a jazz waltz by Shostakovich, a selection of songs popular in Antigua, and an innovative version of *Winter*, from Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons' arranged for orchestra and steel pan.

You can get a sneak preview of what's in store by watching this recording of the ABYSO performing an excerpt from *Winter*: <https://youtu.be/9WKup1tRXps>

We would be very grateful if you could let Mrs Kemp know if you wish to attend, so that we can plan seating. Please do join us if you can! SB



## Music News

It's been excellent to hear the Pembroke and Worcester Choristers rehearsing in school this week, and everything seems right with the world now that all three of our choirs are back singing in their respective teams. I'm very excited that several offers of chorister places have been made to new boys this September, and it looks like we have fabulous singing lined up for the term ahead.

Special mention must go to the talented musicians of Form 4, who have fielded a record-breaking number of chorister probationers in one year-group... fourteen in total! Congratulations to all our choristers, new and old, as they gear up for a busy and exciting Michaelmas Term. SB







## Languages Day

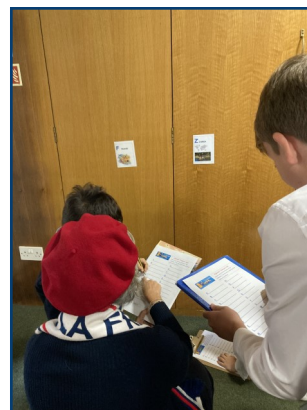
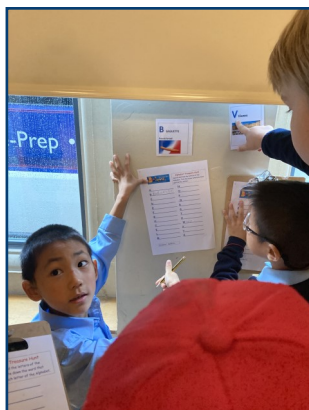
On Tuesday, we were delighted to hold our own 'Languages Day' at school. The day began with an Assembly, where the boys learnt about the Rosetta Stone and then tried to become language detectives, using visual clues from a photograph - they had to work out where they were!

Our Language Ambassadors were kept busy - they customised their tee-shirts by jumbling up words. Throughout the day, they and their friends tried to recreate and translate the original sentences. They also helped Pre-Prep boys with the right dance moves for the song '*Sur le Pont d'Avignon*', and the World Scavenger Hunt we organised.

So many Pre-Prep children dressed up or brought something to school relating to a country that was important to them. They had fun telling their friends and teachers about their costumes and objects

We were delighted to travel to Greece for lunch! The Moussaka and Cheese Pie were really appreciated!

We have set Prep boys a DUOLINGUO challenge, which we hope you've already heard about... The boys have been asked to challenge an adult to learn another language for five (or more!) minutes each day. To make it more fun, DUOLINGUO accounts can be linked to the 'CCCS 30-Day Challenge' using our school code **ugczve**. Let's see who's got the best 'streak' or the highest amount of 'XPs' in 30 days. We hope you enjoy this linguistic challenge! SL, AEW



## 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](mailto:registrar@cccs.org.uk).

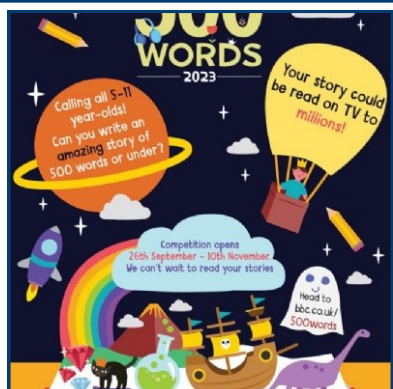




## Form 2 News

This week in Form 2, we had the exciting opportunity to become Anglo-Saxons for the day at Cogges Manor Farm. Firstly, we made flatbread with only two ingredients, which was cooked over a fire. Next, we had a chance to build an Anglo-Saxon shelter with the biggest sticks we could find. Water was sprayed over the shelters to see how water-proof we had made them and luckily we stayed pretty dry! One of the highlights was feeding the pygmy goats - Timothy, Jonathon and Louis.

After lunch in the barn, we bashed barley with a stick and learnt about how to separate the grain from the chaff. We then ground the barley between flat stones to make flour - which was harder than it looked! Lastly, we tried on Anglo-Saxon hats and wimples, whilst carving runes into clay necklaces. What a busy but fun-filled day! MHW



## BBC 500 Words Writing Competition 2023

500 Words, the biggest children's writing competition in the UK, is back! Watch a video about this year's competition. <https://youtu.be/zGSli8C6yhQ>

500 Words, the UK's most successful children's writing competition, opens on Tuesday 26 September and will run till Friday 10 November.

Since the competition was first launched in 2011 by Chris Evans on the Radio 2 Breakfast Show, it has received over one million stories from children throughout the UK.

This year, the two age categories will be 5 - 7 year-olds and 8 - 11 year-olds.

Children of all abilities are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to write a story they would love to read without the pressure of having to worry about spelling, punctuation and grammar.

All boys will be discussing what makes a good story in their English lessons over the next few weeks and will then write their 500 words story, either in lesson time or for prep. The school will then post off the boys' entries to the BBC.

School deadline: Wednesday 8th November, 2023

Any questions? Please ask Ms Skipwith. SS



## Nursery News

The reaction of the Nursery children to their Cathedral Assembly experience this morning was to recreate the Cathedral in our brick area.

We talked about the Assembly and who was there - Mr Murray, the boy who did the reading, and the children even remembered the Chaplain.

We are looking forward to our next Friday morning visit to the Cathedral. HB



## Form 1 News



In Science, our Form 1 boys have been learning all about our 'superhuman' bodies. The boys had fun drawing around each other and labelling body parts, as well as using interactive models to understand what the body's internal organs do. We also had fun exploring our five senses this week, with our 'taste and smell' investigations being an especially big hit. The boys voted for fresh mint, banana essence, and hot chocolate as their favourite smells, whilst vinegar was undoubtedly the least popular smell.

The boys continued their study of the senses in their Computing lessons, using musical production software to create a range of beats and rhythms to listen to and to get their bodies moving.

In Art this week, the boys created colourful spirals using oil pastels, as well as drawing patterned pictures that represented their own musical compositions.

In Maths, the boys have been working hard on their addition skills, and we have been practising solving problems using the 'part-whole' model. Wow, what a busy week Form 1! Have a well-deserved rest this weekend. TR



## Cathedral Assembly Announcement

This morning, during Cathedral Assembly, Mr Murray was delighted to announce the following Form 8 senior roles:

**Head Boy - Edward Hare**

**Deputy Head Boy - Will Kirkman**

**Head of Sport - Ethan Zhang**

**Head of Carroll - Micky Spender**

**Head of Sayers - Vasishth Patel**

**Head of Wolsey - Will Smyth**

These boys fully deserve their roles and we look forward to watching how they develop over the year.

Well done boys! NH



## Sports News

This week saw the whole of Prep School have the opportunity to play in Rugby fixtures against various schools. Our Forms 3 & 4 boys played against Ashfold School, our Forms 5 & 6 boys against MCS and our Forms 7 & 8 boys against Cokethorpe School. Many staff have given their accounts below:

Our U8 team played their first Rugby match of the season against some strong Ashfold boys. We learnt a huge amount from the afternoon and progressed with various Rugby-related skills. Tries were scored by Viraaaj, Lucas, Sam and Sebastian, to name a few. A fantastic afternoon, made even better by a lovely match tea and a fun bus journey.

Our U9A team played an intensely competitive Rugby match. Our team faced off against Ashfold School, resulting in a captivating twelve-try draw. Both teams delivered exceptional performances, showcasing their passion for the sport. A special mention to Ted, who had a standout performance, showing resilience and leadership throughout.

Our U10B team played exceptionally well, maintaining their defensive line-up and keeping communication high. The boys were confident running forwards and not scared to take a tackle. It was the first game for the boys, resulting in a win, which kept morale high. We look forward to next week where this team will be very much focused on moving as a group and setting themselves up to make excellent plays.

Our U10A team lost narrowly by one try against MCS. Outstanding performances from the whole team, especially George, who charged the MCS defence and Raywho weaved his way in and out to score four tries. Some wonderful passages of play made this a narrow loss but an overall great performance from these young Rugby players.

In a highly challenging and competitive match, our U11A team faced MCS, and the boys displayed outstanding performances and unwavering effort. Eaton's tough tackles were a sight to behold, setting the tone for our team's resolute defence. Throughout the game, our boys showcased remarkable resilience against a strong MCS side, scoring some impressive tries.

Despite being outplayed by a very able and organised MCS side, there were some flashes of greatness from our U11Bs. A number of great passes, many instances of committed defending, some mazy runs and an excellent try scored by Micah were among the highlights. The boys were energetic and enthusiastic throughout, working hard until the final whistle, when they respectfully congratulated the victors with the traditional cheers and handshakes.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> team boys enjoyed their first match of this Rugby season, coming up against a well-organised Cokethorpe side. The match began very evenly with both sides scoring early tries. Some excellent breaks from William, who had the opposition struggling to cope with his strength and running. Other notable performances came from Owen and Trust who were very brave in their tackles. Cokethorpe then took control of the game with some excellent individual tries, but our boys stood up to the test and continued to battle to the very end. With a few minutes remaining Vasisht scored the try of the match, running the length of the pitch, leaving the Cokethorpe backline trailing in his wake.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> team also played Cokethorpe School in what turned out to be a very one-sided affair. Our boys were superb from the start, staying strong in both defence and attack. Tries came from a number of boys with Troy and Jon being the pick of the team. Henry and Martin were both solid in defence. A great start to the season and a promising looking team, well done to everyone.



## Meet and Greet: Ryan Withers - CCCS Maths Teacher

**What did you want to be when you grew up?** Happy, and what are you doing now? Teaching Maths.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why?** Australia or New Zealand. It is the only continent I haven't been to.

**Who is your idol?** Sir Alex Ferguson because of his ambition, motivation, and, ultimately, his success.

**Favourite city or town and in which season?** Heidelberg in the Spring.

**One thing you would change in the world if you could?** I would want to put an end to poverty.

**Is there a family trait/habit that you have?** I don't like clutter, learned behaviour from my dad.

**Favourite Book?** I can't narrow it down to one.

**If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be?** I would learn as many languages as I could.

**Any advice on to relax at the weekend?** Spend time with the people you love.

I think it's safe to say that Ryan is happy, and happy teaching Maths - exactly what you want in a role like this. I'm not surprised you haven't been to Australia and New Zealand, you're simply saving the best until last, and it is possible you may never want to come back, so this is a trip that must take plenty of consideration.

Working in a multicultural school has enormous advantages and as you probably know, there are plenty of multi-lingual students here ready to teach you a word or two. De-cluttering, a favourite pastime, it is also known as a mood booster. If it won't matter in five years' time, don't spend more than five minutes worrying about it - some good advice to roll into the weekend. Thank you, Ryan and welcome to CCCS.

Kathryn



**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL SCHOOL**  
Boys' Prep School with Co-ed Nursery



# OPEN MORNING

**Saturday 14th October 9.30 am – 12.30 pm**

To register, email: [registrar@cccs.org.uk](mailto:registrar@cccs.org.uk) [www.cccs.org.uk](http://www.cccs.org.uk) 01865 242561