



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 13th October 2023

Dear Parents,

I very much hope that as many of you as possible will come to our joint concert with the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra in the Cathedral on Monday at 12.00 noon. The word 'unmissable' is almost certainly overused but I am completely convinced that I would be justified in describing this concert as an "unmissable event." The ABYSO has been transforming participation in classical music in the Caribbean since its foundation five years ago. Our Director of Music, Ms Biddell, is a mentor for the orchestra, and a relationship has developed between the musicians of CCCS and Antigua. Several members of our music team now support the ABYSO's work, and long-standing parents may remember a visit to Christ Church by Antigua's National Youth Choir in 2019.

At Monday's concert, members of the Cathedral Choir and those from Worcester and Pembroke will sing together alongside the ABYSO. The concert will also feature solo items performed by William Kirkman (one of our Form 8 Cathedral Choristers), Jess Mogridge (CCCS Oboe teacher), as well as a duo performed by two members of the world-famous Kanneh-Mason family, Braimah and Konya. Another two members of this family will also be playing in the orchestra.

The event will be attended by The High Commissioner for Antigua, Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill, and by the Governor General himself, His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams. It is a huge honour for us to be hosting such a high profile event and it would be so exciting if it could be well-supported by the whole school community. I would like to thank Ms Biddell for all her work in organising such an extraordinary occasion. The BBC has covered the ABYSO tour; the report can be seen here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-66844170>

I was delighted upon my return to school from being away last week to find the walls of the Walton Centre covered in poems. These were works chosen by the boys and staff of the School, following our celebration of National Poetry Day. I was so thrilled to see the variety of choices and, on some, there were comments about why those poems had been chosen, many of which were very insightful. I have just come back from looking at them again and found some boys fascinated by who had chosen what. One Form 4 boy had chosen "I vow to thee my country." His comment to me about it was one that, to my mind, showed a great deal more sophistication than some of the adult responses that I have heard expressed about the work. He said: "It looks as though it's going to be about war but then you realise it's not really about war at all; it's about looking to make the world a better place." Quite! How perceptive and thoughtful our pupils are. I think the world would be a better place if people read more poetry.

This theme was continued in the Cathedral this morning when we were visited by James Kazi, the Under Master of Westminster School. A school which, as he pointed out, had a very close historical link to Christ Church because Henry VIII was involved with the foundation of both institutions. The reading Mr Kazi had chosen was from the Sermon on the Mount and he talked to us about the importance of kindness and of treating others well. Few words have played such an important part in the development of humanity and it was wonderful to hear them beautifully read by a Form 8 pupil, and then so movingly preached upon by Mr Kazi. As I said in the Cathedral, Westminster sent a higher proportion of boys to Oxford and Cambridge last year than any other school in the country and so Mr Kazi is very used to teaching outstandingly able pupils. He was very impressed with the pupils he met here at CCCS – huge praise indeed.

Returning to poetry again, by the time you have read this, there will be more poetry on the walls of the Walton Centre, this time poetry written by our boys as responses to the topic selected for National Poetry Day this year, namely 'Refuge.' I look forward so much to reading these poems and I hope that you will find time to come and see what your sons have written.

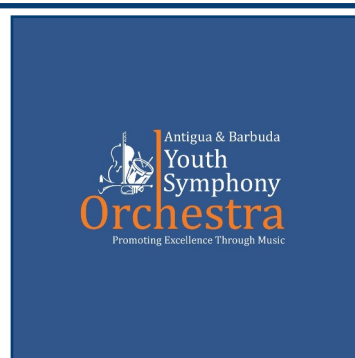
Much of what I have written this week is about words and their power – we should never underestimate this. As the great poet George Herbert, who was a pupil at Westminster, said: "Good words are worth much and cost little."

We are holding our Open Morning tomorrow. Many people are coming round to look at the School and I want to thank the large number of you who have kindly arranged for your sons to come and help us on the day. In any of the surveys we do, or whenever we talk to people about how they have heard of our school, they say personal recommendation. Thank you so much, therefore, for all the lovely things you have said about the School to people who have then become CCCS families; your words, even if they cost little, are worth so much.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2023
Monday 16th - Sunday 22nd October

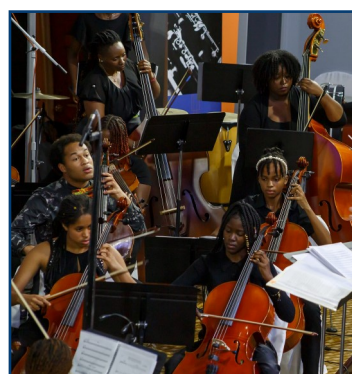
MONDAY 16	
12.00	Performance by The Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (Cathedral)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 8)
4.10 - 5.00	Ancient Greek Club (Forms 7 & 8)
TUESDAY 17	
4.10 - 5.00	After School Rugby Club (Forms 3 - 8)
6.00	CC: St Frideswide Civic Service
WEDNESDAY 18	
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
2.00	Forms 5 & 6 A Teams v Cokethorpe (Away)
2.30	Forms 7 & 8 Rugby v The Dragon (Home)
3.55 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)
	Half Term Begins (Return 30.10.23) CC: Half Term Begins after school.
	Boys not require for services from 19.10.23 until 30.10.23 incl.
THURSDAY 19	
FRIDAY 20	
SATURDAY 21	
SUNDAY 22	<i>The Twentieth SUNDAY after Trinity</i> <i>University Third Week</i>



ABYSO Concert, 16th October

12.00 noon in the Cathedral:

Save the Date!



Music News



We're on the last few days of our countdown to welcome the Antigua and Barbuda Symphony Orchestra to Christ Church on Monday. The ABYSO aims to open up new opportunities for orchestral playing for young people in Antigua as well as across the wider Caribbean, and music staff from CCCS have been coaching groups and mentoring members of the ABYSO.

The concert will feature nearly fifty members of the ABYSO alongside a combined choir representing the three sets of choristers at CCCS. I know that the boys are thrilled that four of the Kanneh-Masons will also be playing, and we're all especially looking forward to hearing a duo by Braimah and Konya. The orchestra arrived in London earlier this week (photos below from our first rehearsal), and - although the temperature's quite a shock - they're very excited.

The ABYSO will perform at the Cadogan Hall and the Royal Academy of Music before travelling to Oxford on Monday. Our joint concert will be at 12.00 noon on Monday 16th October, and admission is free with retiring collection. Please do come if you can! SB



Professional Opera - Children's Chorus

[Garsington Opera](#) is looking for children to form the chorus of ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** by Benjamin Britten as part of our 2024 professional opera season. Whilst children don't need to be able to read music, we are looking for confident singers and enthusiastic performers who love to be on the stage. Children should be aged between 9-17 years. Unchanged voices only.

Auditions will be held on Sunday 19 November. For full casting information and the rehearsal schedule please click [here](#).

We would be grateful if you can share this information with any singing/music teachers or anyone who may be interested.

Judy Knowles
Head of Learning & Participation | Garsington Opera

learning@garsingtonopera.org
www.garsingtonopera.org

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Sports News



On Tuesday, Form 3 came up against a mighty Windmill School team in what turned out to be a game of high scores, fleeting runs, and try-saving tags. Our team performed incredibly well, reflecting their training sessions, and although losing by only one try, CCCS played admirably. Special mention to ViraaJ who was a huge attacking threat.

On Thursday, Form 3 had their second Tag Rugby match, against Chandlings School. We performed superbly well, matching our hosts and scoring numerous tries. Special mentions for Lucas and ViraaJ, who both made some

fantastic forward runs to score brilliant individual tries.

Form 4 played a triangular against Windmill School on Tuesday. This was a great opportunity to get every boy in Form 4 playing some Rugby. All the boys played exceptionally well, putting in 100% effort throughout. Special mentions to Ted, Armaan, Richard and Ntiamoah, who all went the 'extra mile' for their teams.

Form 4 As played their second match of the week on Thursday, also against Chandlings School. It was a very competitive fixture with both teams scoring some spectacular tries. However, with some monstrous tackles from Ted and Patrick, we regained possession of the ball and managed to score a few last-minute tries. Special mentions to Constantin and Ntiamoah, who both scored many sensational tries.

Our 2nd XV played a competitive fixture against Ashfold School on Wednesday. Ashfold came out of the blocks incredibly well but with some determination and resilience from us, we came back into the game scoring some excellent tries. Special mentions must go to Isaac and Micky, who collectively turned the tide of the game for us with blistering runs and dominant carries.

Our 1st XV played Ashfold School on Wednesday. This fixture that has only recently been established. Ashfold are a well-drilled team, with many of their boys playing club Rugby outside of school. We began the first half strongly with powerful running from John and Ethan. Our defence was excellent, we put into practice what we have been working on in training. Alas, Ashfold boys were too strong and ran in several tries - the first half finished 4-0. A quick drink and a bit of belief saw us score first in the second half. Some fine running from Henry resulted in another score and we were 2-0 up for the half. The boys battled hard until the end but the class of the team we were up against was clear. The second half finished 5-3 to Ashfold. We were hugely proud of the boys and look forward to our next match against The Dragon on Wednesday. NH



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:

Pre-Prep News

This week, Pre-Prep enjoyed a much anticipated visit from the local Neighbourhood Policing Team. The boys assembled in Walton Hall, and a deafening hush of awe and wonder spread through their ranks as the Police entered the room, decked out in full uniform and carrying with them all manner of exciting equipment.

Sergeant Peter Neale introduced himself and his team, and as an opening gambit, asked our boys what they thought the job of the police was. Many of the responses inevitably revolved around the theme of 'catching the bad guys', 'locking up criminals' and 'putting robbers in handcuffs', but the police team explained to our boys that whilst that is a part of their job, they do lots of other things as well. One vital message was that they wanted people to see them as approachable, so that they are able to help in lots of ways across the community and to ensure that everyone is safe and supported, children included.

There then followed a dynamic and fun demonstration of how their uniform and equipment worked, and with the help of lots of very eager volunteers, they role-played common policing scenarios. We were lucky enough to try on all the different uniform items and hats, and the boys learnt about different ranks and responsibilities.

A highlight for our boys was dressing up in riot shields and helmets, and staving off paper missile attacks from the police! However, perhaps the most magical moment of all was when we used a live police radio to contact all of the police officers on the beat around the city. We shouted a wholehearted 'Hello Oxford!', and back across the radio crackled a chorus of friendly 'hello, hello, hellos'...

It was a truly unforgettable experience for our Pre-Prep boys and a wonderful chance to learn all about bona fide 'Everyday Heroes' within CCCS' local community. TR



OPEN MORNING

Saturday 14th October 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

French News

This week's winner was Trust (Form 7) with more than 4000 XPs (points). Competition is raging as more parents are taking part and the boys are asking to check the Leaderboard several times a day! Last Saturday, I was emailed by boys who were hoping to join forces and try and beat Mrs Simpkins. I had to remind these boys that the goal of this challenge is to improve their linguistic skills (and have fun!) not to beat their science teacher! Only 20 days left... SL

French Challenge (Prep School)

Our pupils have until Friday 3rd November to submit their French Challenge entry. We've suggested 9 categories but we are open to new initiatives!

A French Bake-off. Choose a recipe, follow it and present it in French- Photos/videos needed. (We'll happily taste a sample too!)

Lights, Camera, Action! - Choose a scene from a sitcom or a film and re-enact it in French. Why don't you do a French voice-over?

Holiday Adventure. Become a holiday ambassador! Design a five-day tour around a country or region of your choice, in French obviously!

Ancient Tales. Research and choose a folktale, myth or fable from another culture. How will you present it in French?

Science Experiment. Choose a science experiment and make a presentation with all the props!

Sing it Your Way. Choose one of your favourite songs and rewrite it in French. Or, why don't you sing a famous French song with your friends?

Game Player. Choose a traditional game from another culture or make your own game where participants are required to play in French

Programming. If you are into computers and/or games, you may already know about Scratch, Kodu and/or Microbit. Can your characters speak French on Minecraft?

Other. You can create your own task, whether it involves drama, art, Lego models... the choice is yours! SL

French Challenge (Pre-Prep)



Following in the footsteps of the Prep School boys, children in the Pre-Prep are invited to join in and take up the CCCS French Challenge this autumn half term!

The Challenge is to be creative and produce something with a link to France, its language and/or culture.

What about building a famous French monument out of Lego? Or sing along to a well-known French song? Or think of a different way to count to 20? Or talk about the colours in French?

Please may we ask that children bring their finished work of art into school after the holidays or that parents or guardians send the French Challenge entry in the form of a photograph or short video clip by email to williams.a@cccs.org.uk. Merci!

Monday 6th November 2023 is cut-off day to submit all entries.

Have fun painting, drawing, building, speaking and creating.

Prizes will be won! AEW

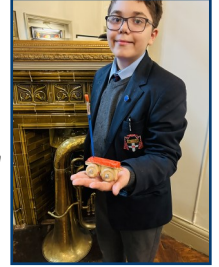




Forms 1 and 2 Harvest Festival Artwork



D.T. Corner



Making the Most of Oxford Club

This week the Making the Most of Oxford Club went in search of walls – the walls that were built in the thirteenth Century to enclose the city. Having examined the walls in Brewer Street we crossed the Meadow to admire the walls and the bastion alongside Merton College and Corpus Christi. It is incredible to think of these all being built without any modern machinery! KS



Lost Property

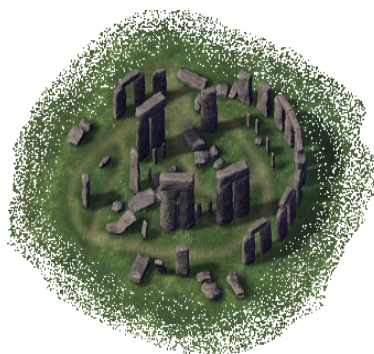
There is a large Lost Property Box in the Foyer, outside the Walton Hall, where missing belongings are usually found.

Please do ask your children to take a look, if they have lost anything.

Clearly named items are always easier to reunite with their owners... LK

Form 3 News

Our study of Prehistory has reached Stonehenge, so we made it - out of biscuits! We used tall biscuits for the larger Sarsen stones and smaller custard creams for the Welsh bluestones. We all had great fun, although, as Harry pointed out, some showed Stonehenge accurately as it was when it was built whilst others are more realistically what it looks like now, with several stones having toppled over. AF



Nursery News

Nursery children explored Christ Church Meadow last week. We looked for the first signs of Autumn, climbed on fallen tree trunks, watched squirrels, filled a tent frame made from sticks with conker casings and enjoyed a story under a horse chestnut tree. It was such a magical morning in the autumnal sunshine. HB



Mr Murray came to read to us on Monday. He read 'Oi Frog,' by Kes Gray, and then we were treated to Mr Murray reading Lynley Dodd's 'Hairy McClary from Donaldson's Dairy.' Commenting on the visit afterwards, one of the children observed, "He doesn't read Hairy McClary like Alfie does!" Nursery children do love a Gap Student coming to read to them - almost as much as Mr Murray. HB

More Pre-Prep News...

Pre-Prep children explored the woodland this week looking for different coloured autumnal leaves. The boys enthusiastically organised themselves, scanning the woodland floor for the different colours presented on their leaf cards. It was fabulous to see the older boys collaborating and helping the younger ones. We observed that there were a lot of yellow leaves and brown ones. I heard one of the Reception boys say, "There aren't many red leaves here, but Miss Helen (Nursery) must have known that because there isn't a really red colour on the card."

The boys were very excited when Ashhvith (Form 1) found an enormous worm. They all looked on as he let the creature wriggle in the palm of his hand. HB



Meet and Greet: Dan Pear - Assistant Head of Sport

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? As with many young lads, I always dreamed of being a footballer. However, now I actually think that the reality of that dream probably isn't quite what it seemed. More recently I have dreamed of becoming a photographer, being able to travel and capture magical moments with a camera. I am currently teaching at CCCS as the Assistant Head of Sport - and enjoying it greatly.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I spent a couple of short stints in Asia and I particularly enjoyed my time in Nepal. I would love to go back there. But also I have a random, photography based, desire to explore the Faroe Islands.

Who is your idol? This is a tricky question. I think I idolise my parents in many ways. They have taught me so much over the years and I feel I owe a lot of what I have become today to them.

Favourite city or town and in which season? Arosa, which is a Swiss mountain village. I have close family ties to this place where I have been lucky enough to visit many times. Winter Skiing and Summer hiking in the mountains are two of my favourite things to do.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? I would love humanity to come together a bit more to try and solve the current global issues we are facing. There is so much to be positive about and humans have incredible capabilities. However, I often feel that these are not used in the most effective ways. I want to secure a bright, safe, peaceful and caring future for my children and future generations.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? My brothers, my dad and I are all huge Oxford United fans and have probably spent too much time, effort, stress and money following them over the years. It goes without saying that my daughters will be introduced to this once they are a bit older too. The circle of life!

Favourite Book? *Sapiens - A Brief History of Humankind* Yuval Noah Harari

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be? I would love the challenge of visiting every country in the World before I die. Travelling and meeting people from different walks of life teaches you so much!

Any advice on to relax at the weekend? Plenty of time spent with family and friends. I love to get outside and enjoy nature whilst taking photos with my camera or my drone. Then Football - either watching or playing is always a must on a Saturday. Finally, of course, decent food and drink to complete the festivities!

If you haven't been daydreaming about holidays yet, it's very likely Dan has ignited the travel bug in you. We all need a well-travelled associate to inspire us to see the world. There's no better way to bring humanity together than by breaking down cultural barriers - it is also a reminder of how lucky we are to have a home to come back to. I'm sure your photography skills will be very welcome at school, Sports Journalism would combine almost all of your favourite things.

I've changed my mind about having almost out of reach dreams, for instance, wanting to become a footballer - I can't dribble and I'm very bad at contact, but watching Sam Kerr play in the recent Women's World Cup would have been enough for me as a child to ditch the dolls and lace up the boots. Thank you Dan.

Have a great weekend.

Kathryn