



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 17th November 2023

Dear Parents,

In the Cathedral this morning, we were delighted to hear the Headmaster of Bedford School speak very movingly about the importance of being grateful for everything that surrounds us. This was a particularly potent message, given the environment in which we found ourselves and the people next to whom we were sitting. We really have so much to be thankful for here at CCCS. One of the highlights of the School is the number of interesting people who come to address the pupils, including Mr Hodgson. Not only is Mr Hodgson the Headmaster of a great English school – it has 1100 pupils - but he is both a Classicist and a First-Class Cricketer, having played for Cambridge University against many of England's greatest players. He revealed that he now plays for the Cricket team in his home village of Bosham, which is in the West Sussex Southern Division, League 11. Since Mr Hodgson has joined the Team they have triumphantly moved up into League 10. I wonder how long it will be before they achieve First-Class status!

At the end of the service our Chaplain, The Revd Philippa White, reacted to Mr Hodgson's words, by reading out a beautiful poem by the 17th Century English poet, George Herbert, which has the following lines:

Thou that hast giv'n so much to me,  
Give one thing more, a grateful heart:

And indeed, how grateful I felt that we have a Chaplain who can produce such a moving and apposite quotation, seconds after she had heard the speaker's words.

During Assembly, I was able to announce the winners of our Christmas Card Competition. This year I had so many delightful entries and it was extremely hard to make a choice. The winner was Richard He in Form 4. I am not going to show you his design now because you will see it when the Christmas card arrives at the end of this term, but I think you will like it. There is a great deal of wonderful Art being created in the School at the moment, and indeed Mrs Elias now also teaches Pre-Prep so that our boys are being tutored in Art from a very early age. I would recommend that you all come to our Light Show in December where there will be a great deal of pupils' work on display, beautifully lit in the darkness. Last year it was a charming occasion, and I'm sure it will be so again. It is a good opportunity to meet other parents and to share some festive cheer!

We have been taking manners very seriously recently, particularly table manners. I have said many times before that I believe manners to be the outward signs of a civilised person, a person who cares about those around them. Matron Debbie took the opportunity to teach the boarders some lessons in table manners. One of our Form 8s became the waiter, serving the assembled company with what looked like the wine, but was indeed fruit juice. They had to use knives and forks correctly, asking to pass things around the table and conversing in a civilised manner. I'm delighted that such things are going on in the School.

During lunch, staff spend time talking to pupils. This is extremely important as decent conversation is both an essential life skill and has an important part to play in gaining entry in senior schools. Interestingly, I heard from someone who had been talking to an Oxbridge Tutor recently, who said that undergraduates these days find intellectual conversations increasingly difficult. Conversations such as these are surely at the very heart of what it is to be a student, and I am certain that introducing intellectual conversation earlier in life is something of the greatest importance. There are no telly dinners here at CCCS.

I spend the first 45 minutes of the day on Brewer Street, greeting those people who arrive. There is one boy who always announces with great ceremony and concentration how he is feeling - generally he is very positive. He is, amongst other things, "Ecstatic" "Brilliant" "Excited" but recently he has only been "Good" and once it even plummeted to "OK". When I asked him what made the difference, he looked up and said, "The weather." "If it's sunny, I'm ecstatic; if it's grey, I'm OK." Despite the fact that, living in England, he must have frequent shifts in mood, I do think that this is a wonderfully straightforward approach to life. I was reminded of the words of a traditional English song, "The Sun has got his hat on hip hip hip. Hooray!" I hope that everyone has a very sunny weekend.

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

**Michaelmas 2023**  
**Monday 20th - Sunday 26th November**

MONDAY 20	
8.45	Form 8 Assembly
9.00 - 12.30	IMPS visit to John Radcliffe (Form 6)
2.30	1st Football v d'Overbroeck's (Home)
2.30	Play Dress Rehearsal (Forms 3 & 4)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.10 - 5.00	Ancient Greek Club (Forms 7 & 8)
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 3 - 5 Football Skills Club (WWH)
TUESDAY 21	
2.30	Play Performance (Forms 3 & 4)
WEDNESDAY 22	
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
9.45 - 11.30	Music visit from Chadlington Primary School
3.55 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)
5.30	Play Performance (Forms 3 & 4)
THURSDAY 23	
8.30	Whole School Flu Vaccinations
1.35 - 2.15	Form 5 visiting St Aldates Church
FRIDAY 24	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker the Revd David Sheen, Chaplain, Brasenose College, Oxford
9.15 - 10.45	Form 2 visit to Café Paul
9.30 - 12.30	Forms 3 & 4 visit The Natural History Museum
4.10 - 5.00	Multi Sports Club (Rec - Form 2)
	EXAM RESULTS CC: IN
SATURDAY 25	
SUNDAY 26	<i>The Sunday next before Advent</i> <i>University Eighth Week</i>

**TRINITY**  
COLLEGE LONDON

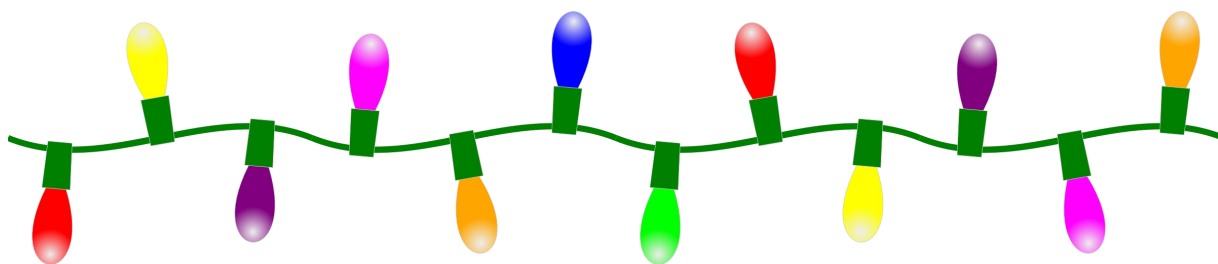
This term's Trinity music exams will take place  
on Tuesday 5th December.

**LAMDA**

The date of the LAMDA Recital will be Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

The Recital will run from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm in the Walton Centre and there will be refreshments from 6.30 pm.

## CCCS Christmas Light Show



This year, our Christmas Light Show will be held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 4.30 – 6.00 pm. We plan to light up the School's playgrounds, with each class decorating a Christmas tree, based on a chosen theme.

During the event, there will be the chance to buy food and drink, play Christmas games, have a go on the Bottle Tombola and enter the fantastic raffle - with prizes donated from each Form. Last year's event was incredibly well supported and we are hoping that this year will be just the same.

The cost of a ticket for adults is £10, which includes a voucher for either a drink or some food; entry for children is free. Additional food and drink vouchers will be available to buy on the night. You will be able to pay via cash or add items to your termly bill if you wish to. At the event, there will be several stalls and games for children (and grown-ups) to take part in. These will all cost 50p to enter, so please do bring some small change.

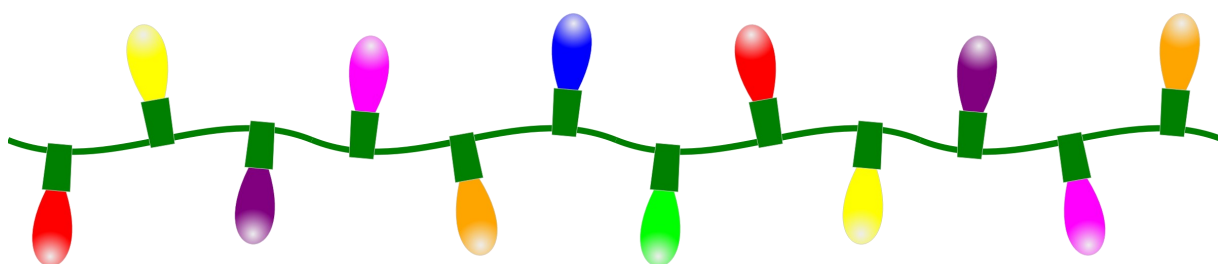
To help with this year's event we kindly ask for donations from parents. If you can give any of the following, please get in touch:

**Bottles for the Bottle Tombola** – These can be anything from a bottle of lemonade to a bottle of champagne. Anything you have lying around at home, we would love to add to our stall.

**Christmas lights** – If you have any lights, used or new, we would love to borrow them for our Light Show.

**Form Hampers** – We would like each Form to organise a hamper for our raffle.

Please get in touch with Michael Crooks - [microoks@gmail.com](mailto:microoks@gmail.com), who will be helping to coordinate everything. I'm sure Michael would greatly appreciate some help from representatives, for each Form.



## CCCS French Challenge 2023 - Merci Beaucoup!



**Entries in the Pre-prep:** A loud '*Merçi beaucoup*'! to all pre-preplings who took part in the French Challenge, as well as siblings and parents who joined in - as participants and members of production teams! We have received a wonderful selection of entries and it is going to be extremely difficult to choose winners.

Thank you so much for encouraging your sons to take up the Challenge. We hope you all enjoyed taking part and learnt something new about France, and its language, in the process.

All entries, as far as possible, will be on view in the display case at the entrance to Pre-Prep later this month and the pupils will be able to see, share and enjoy all entries during an Assembly. All contestants will have a special reward at break time. AE-W



**Entries in Prep:** '*Merçi beaucoup*' for your support – the entries for the French Challenge are heart-warming!

All contestants will enjoy a hot chocolate with marshmallows at break time and a special edible prize will go to the winners... who will be revealed during an Assembly soon. SL

## Art News

Forms 1 and 2 have been drawing shells in Art and learning how to use watercolour and how to make poly prints this week. The boys created some wonderful work. EE



## Nursery News



This week Nursery celebrated Diwali with the Gupta family. Anjali wore a traditional outfit, the children all admired the patterns and wondered whether the jewels and gold were real.

The group then made rangoli patterns using beautiful coloured sand and shared stories about the festival.

Many thanks to Mrs Gupta for sharing the festival with our Nursery children. HB

## Woodland School Fun



This week, we collected leaves to make pictures, notably a giant with a huge head and really long arms.

In the wood we felt the weather changing and noticed how much cooler it was when we weren't moving - and, after a brief rain shower, how much cooler the weather also became. In the undergrowth the children found slug eggs, a ladybird and lots of worms.

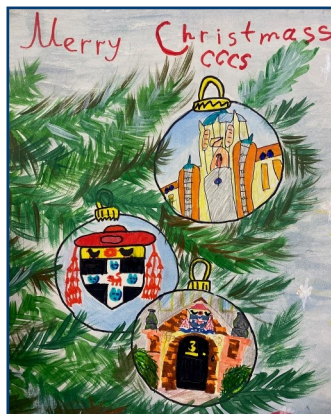
Our finale was to learn some more camp songs, 'Black Socks' and a firm favourite 'Ten Green Bottles.' HB



## CCCS Christmas Card Competition

We had many wonderful Christmas card entries; well done to all those boys who entered. It was hard to choose the winner and runners up.

Congratulations to Richard (Form 4) for winning the competition and to the runners up: Theo (Form 5), Périclès (Form 4), and Gintas (Form 6). EE



## Matron's Manners

Earlier this week I showed our new boys a few important points of table manners and general dining etiquette.

The boys enjoyed our 30-minute practical. They found they enjoyed the taste of the fruit more when the environment was calmer and cutlery was used.

We were served white, red or rosé squash by our excellent waiter, William Smyth. DP



### Some of the important manners taught were:

- The importance of using proper greetings
- To greet people with a smile and a cheery "Hello"
- To speak quietly, no shouting, no quick movements which may knock over drinks and cutlery
- To dress appropriately
- To put your phone away
- To be a good listener and remember to engage in conversation with a person sitting opposite you

William Smyth says... "One reason for doing this is because later in the school year the choir are going to London, and in June 2024 the choir are going to California, which is very exciting but we will have to have excellent manners and etiquette."

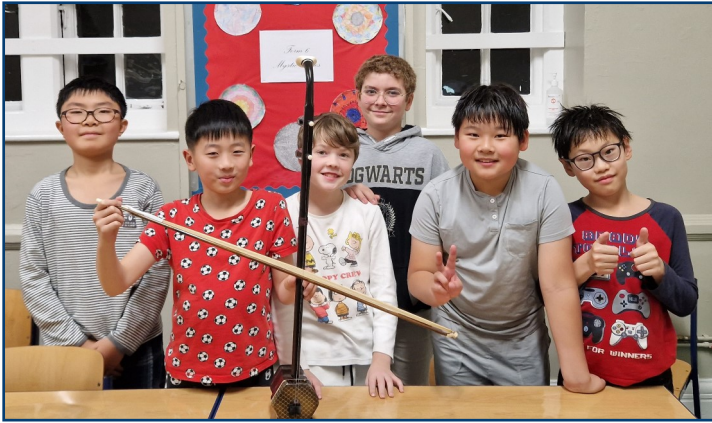


## Remembrance Sunday

Last Sunday morning, William Smyth opened our Service of Remembrance by playing the Last Post. The Cathedral Choir then sang the Requiem by Faure during the Eucharist.

I was so proud to hear so many of the congregation speaking afterwards of the very high quality singing and how special it was that William played the Trumpet. JR

## Music News



I have been talking to some of the boys in the Prep department about instruments from different musical traditions in recent weeks. Pupils in the older years might remember the hulusi - a wind instrument with a haunting sound - being played last Trinity term during preparations for the House Music Competition.

On Wednesday night, I brought my own erhu into school for the boarders to see. We looked at how the bow is secured between the strings and discussed how the player's technique must be affected by the lack of a fingerboard - very different from a Western violin. The boys touched the snake-skin sound box which amplifies the sound, and which helps to give the erhu its characteristically resonant tone. I am very fond of this beautiful instrument so it was lovely to explore it with such a keen audience! SB



## INFORMAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2023

William Walton Hall, 4.30 pm Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November



Featuring solos by senior boys and festive performances by Guitar Group, Double Reeds Band and our wind and string ensembles.

Please contact [schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk) to reserve a place!



## The Geology of the Cathedral

On Thursday, our Cardinal Scholars were given a geological tour of the Cathedral by two geologist authors, Nina Morgan and Philip Powell. In the Quad we looked through lenses at the shell fragments in Headington and Bath limestones, the staples of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century building in Oxford. We looked at the floor of the Chapter House, chequered with Carrara marble, and at the ancient slate epitaphs in the Cloister – the oldest stone in the Cathedral; and then we inspected closely the granite and limestone tombs in the Latin Chapel, the limestone boasting spectacularly large fossils of sea lilies. Lastly we looked at the Purbeck Marble of St Frideswide's shrine (not strictly marble) and at the 14<sup>th</sup> Century alabaster effigy of the wealthy Lady Montague nearby.



We are very grateful to Nina Morgan and Philip Powell for sharing their knowledge of geology and opening our eyes to a new dimension of the Cathedral. Their latest book – *A Story in Stone* – looks at the astonishing variety of stones in the Natural History Museum. NR



## Form 1 News

The boys in Form 1 have had great fun this week practising their 3D shapes.

We have been learning lots of songs and dances about shapes, as well as enjoying a shapes hunt around school. TR

## Sports News

On Wednesday we played our final match of the Rugby season. Our 1st XII were pitted against MCS. The boys once again played with passion and precision and came out as worthy winners. Notable performances from Jon, Ethan and Edward showed just how far the team had come. Congratulations to all our boys on a wonderful season.

Our attention now turns to Football, please can we remind parents that all boys must have Football boots and shin pads for Games sessions. NH



## French News



The boys in Form 1 trooped off on Friday morning to practise their French on the big stage at 'Café Paul', "Bonjour! Je voudrais un chocolat chaud et un pain au chocolat svp.." The French slipped beautifully off their tongues and the boys were intrigued when their hot chocolate arrived, thick, dark and creamy. "This is the best hot chocolate ever!" announced Oswald to which Fraser responded by nodding vigorously in silent agreement as he was biting into his croissant. Bravo!

The boys did their teachers proud and everybody agreed that it had been a happy and successful morning. AE-W

## Form 4 News

On Friday, we set off to go to FarmED. It was raining, and on the bus I got car sick. When we arrived we got off the bus and each had a chocolate biscuit. Afterwards, we met two people called Jade and Heidi. First, they took us over to the orchard where we could have a run and find the fruits with the silliest names. My group found Queen's Cox and Eynsham Dumpling. Edward

After that, we went to see the wheat. There was a university student studying the soil and how healthy it was. Then we went to the polytunnel. Heidi gave us an interesting talk about what types of vegetables they were. Jaden

When we finished lunch Jade and Heidi told my whole class that we would go into separate teams. First, I was in Heidi's group – we were looking for little animals that lived in a pond. Next, in Jade's group, we were looking for some worms. My partner and I got a 15 cm worm! Ntiamoah

After looking at some polytunnels, we went back to have lunch. The next thing was pond dipping (which was probably everyone's favourite) and no, you do not need to dip yourself in the pond. You have a tray of water and you try to find creatures. It was an amazing day out and I really enjoyed it! Armaan

