



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 24th November 2023

Dear Parents,

I thought this was a school for humans only. Following the performance of the Forms 3 and 4 play, I am seriously questioning my assumption. On the stage were all manner of creatures. There were pigs in military fatigues, heralds in full mediaeval costume, a terrifying wolf who strutted through the audience frightening them with his harrowing roar; there was a grandmother complete with elaborate hair do, there were strange creatures of the wood and, of course, a young girl with a red riding hood, skipping through the forest accompanied by her dog. And that's just scratching the surface. Clearly we are a much more complex school than I at first thought. I was so thrilled with the commitment which everyone on the stage had, to ensure that the performance was as authentic as possible. We went through the whole spectrum of emotions, tragedy at the death of an innocent grandmother, relief that Red Riding Hood happened to have a revolver on her with which she was able to eradicate the wolf's attempt to eat her, and on and on it goes. One mother told me that so focussed was her son on ensuring that his portrayal of the dog was life-like, he had been studying the habits of his pet dog - so that his performance on stage was perfect. The whole experience was delightful and I would like to thank all those who were involved, especially, of course, Mrs Green, Mrs Fairhurst and Mrs Fletcher, on the acting side, and Miss Biddell on the music. Two Form 8 boys, Isaac and Thomas, were brilliant too in terms of the lighting and sound effects.

I went on a visit to Our Lady's School in Abingdon yesterday which was a great pleasure in that I was greeted so warmly by a large number of our past pupils, all of whom seemed to be very happy there. On the way back, I decided to walk to school from where I had parked my car, via the Meadow. Half way up the Long Walk I encountered a group of pupils wearing a familiar uniform – it was Nursery and some of Pre-Prep who were out for a walk. In the Long Walk, a tree was being cut down and the tree surgeon came and talked to the children about what he was doing. Our pupils are so lucky to have the Meadow at hand, a place in the middle of the City where they can learn about the natural world, see cattle grazing on water meadows, and all within spitting distance of their school. And then there are the vistas of some of the most extraordinary buildings in Europe – well that's another story. Certainly our boys and girls seemed extremely happy to be out and about.

In the Cathedral this morning, Alexander in Form 4 played a charming piano piece by Debussy entitled 'Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum'. Alexander played with real aplomb and spirit as well as playing with extraordinary accuracy for someone of his age. Sometimes one really does have to pinch oneself about the quality of music we hear at this school. Friday after Friday, external speakers marvel at the quality of the music that our young pupils perform. There is no doubt that children can do extraordinary things if they live in an environment which is both supportive and where expectations are high. I think the most striking thing is that behind these achievements is a world where playing musical instruments is just the most natural thing conceivable – and of course it is! Hence why, on any day, music can be heard coming from somewhere in the school.

And what a joy it was to have been in Pembroke and Worcester College Chapels this week to hear so many boys singing at services. We read about the fact that there is a decline in boys wishing to be in choirs. Here the opposite is the case – our numbers really are growing. There is so much to be positive about.

This week, our Making the Most of Oxford club visited the other side of the playground wall, namely the Jesuit College, Campion Hall. The building was designed by the great 20th Century architect, Edwin Lutyens, designer of the Capitol buildings in New Delhi and the Cenotaph in Whitehall. As much as anything it is fascinating to see what lies behind the wall against which footballs are kicked. There are a huge number of treasures of real interest. One such treasure is the desk upon which Napoleon signed his abdication, which the boys were shown. I imagine there are very few people who are able to see such a historically significant object, particularly at a time when Napoleon must be very much in vogue given the release of the most recent film!

I can sense a feeling of excitement gathering – the pupils are beginning to warm up as Advent Sunday and then Christmas gets ever closer. What a wonderful time of year it is and indeed what is the answer to that question which everyone seems to be asking "Where has November gone?" Just wait until we get to December...

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2023

Monday 27th November - Sunday 3rd December

MONDAY 27	
	Headmaster's Assembly
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 28	
9.30	Forms 1 - 4 Pantomime (Oxford Playhouse)
4.30 - 7.00	Form 8 Parents' Evening (SchoolCloud)
WEDNESDAY 29	
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
2.30	Forms 5 & 6 Football v New College (Home)
2.30	Forms 7 & 8 Football v New College (Away)
3.55 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.30	Informal Christmas Concert
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)
THURSDAY 30	
	<i>Andrew The Apostle</i>
	Years 2 & 3 Scholarships Day
1.35 - 2.15	Form 5 RS Trip to Christ Church Cathedral
FRIDAY 1	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, Pre-Prep Christingle Service
	Parking available on the Broad Walk from 8.15 am
4.10 - 5.00	Multi Sports Club (Rec - Form 2)
	CC: OUT
SATURDAY 2	
	<i>University Full Term Ends</i>
6.00	Cathedral Advent Carol Service
SUNDAY 3	
	<i>The First Sunday in Advent</i>

Lost Property



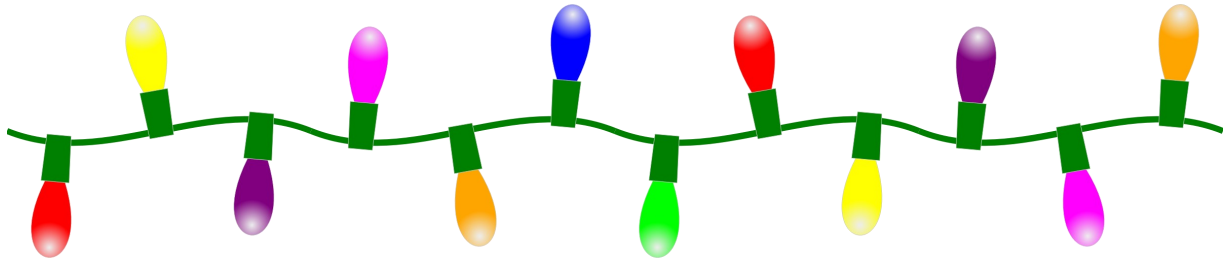
There is a large Lost Property Box in the Foyer, outside the Walton Hall.

If your children have lost any belongings, please ask them to take a look in the box.



We also have a selection of small items in the School Office, namely, a set of three keys, two pairs of glasses, a Fitbit watch, a set of Oboe reeds, some headphones and a flexible ruler. LK

CCCS Christmas Light Show



This year, our Christmas Light Show will be held on Friday 8th 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.

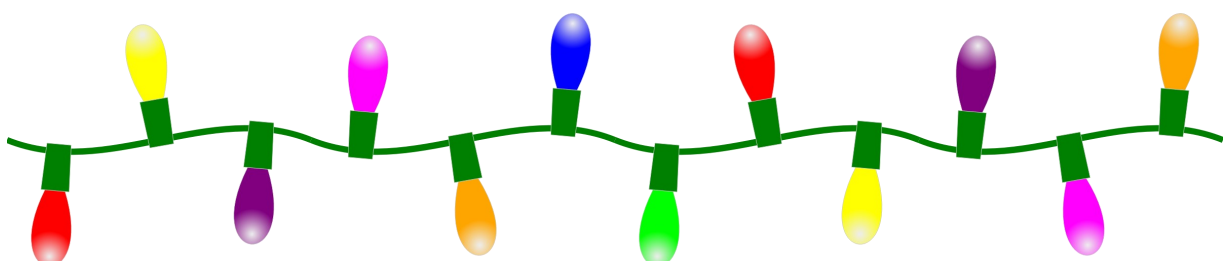
To help with this year's event we kindly ask for donations from parents. If you can give any of the following, please get in touch:

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, who will be helping to coordinate everything. I'm sure Michael would greatly appreciate some help from representatives, for each Form.



Red Riding Hood and Friends

Congratulations to our Forms 3 and 4 boys on a fantastic performance of 'Red Riding Hood and Friends' this week! Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the show possible. We raised £156.80 for our school charities, Macmillan Support and the Angus Irvine Playing Fields Fund. SG



Making the Most of Oxford Club



This week both groups saw what lies on the other side of the huge wall that dominates our playground. We were visiting Campion Hall and were welcomed and shown around by the Master, Father Austin.

We saw the building that used to be a brewery – hence the name Brewer Street, the much more recent building designed by Lutyens, plus the many treasures which lie within. These treasures included the table on which Napoleon signed his surrender and some old Peruvian paintings that will feature in the next Paddington film! KS





CHRISTMAS TECH CAMP

Next Thing

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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 2023

What else is on?

Festive Filming

Cosmic Crackers

Ingenius Inventions

Magical Minecraft

Light-Up Cards

Different activity theme each day, please check website for your camp activities

WHAT TO BRING...

Packed Lunch and Snacks (NOT FREE)

Water Bottle

Medication if Required

Weather Appropriate Clothing

HOW TO BOOK

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FIND YOUR LOCATION

GET £5 OFF! USE CODE AT CHECKOUT

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CC5

The BEST camp around!

My daughter is fully inspired and will not stop talking about the amazing time she had. The Staff were experienced, welcoming and encouraging."

- Happy Parent

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Informal Christmas Concert

As you can see from this photo, our Form 4 choristers in all three of our choirs have been organising their own break-time Christmas rehearsals already (complete with conductor, of course - these boys like to do things properly). It has been wonderful to start hearing carols as we enter one of the busiest periods in the musical year.

If your son is in the school Double Reeds Ensemble, Jazz Band, Guitar Group, String Orchestra or String Quartet, please be aware that all of these groups will be performing in our **Informal Christmas Concert on**

Wednesday 29th November. This relaxed event will take place at 4.30 pm in the Walton Hall and should last no longer than an hour. Festive refreshments will be provided afterwards, so please do let the school office know if you would like to come! 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.

Music News

An eager band of Years 3 and 4 children visited the School on Wednesday as part of our chorister outreach scheme. They participated in a singing workshop in the Walton Hall, then fuelled themselves with flapjacks before heading over to perform in the Cathedral. Will S, Eaton, Ian and Patrick sang alongside the children, as well as performing solos and talking about their daily lives as choristers.

For every Chadlington child this was their first ever visit to our Cathedral, ensuring this was a memorable event in many ways. SB



INFORMAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2023

William Walton Hall, 4.30pm Wednesday 29th November



Featuring solos by senior boys, and festive performances by Guitar Group, Lower Strings Ensemble, Jazz Band, String Quartet, Double Reeds Ensemble and String Orchestra.

Please contact schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk to reserve a place!





**SUMMERTOWN
STARS · AFC**



U6's Kickstart: Free Open Training Session

**Everyone is Welcome!
Bring Your Friends**

**Discover Football Fun
& Join Our Team**

9am, Saturday 25th Nov

**@ Five Mile Drive Rec
Oxford OX2 8HT**

More information at <https://summertownstars.org/clubinfo/U6-Kickstart>

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

LAMDA

The date of the LAMDA Recital will be Thursday 14th 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.

Form 6 News

On Monday, Form 6 visited the JR Hospital to take part in the Injury Minimization Programme for Schools (IMPS). The boys were split into two groups and took part in different sessions. One session involved learning some basic first aid skills; including putting a casualty into the recovery position, learning how to do chest compressions and knowing what to do if you come across an emergency situation. In the other session the boys discussed how to prevent accidents and injuries and they got the chance to look at some of the equipment used in the A&E Department.

This was a superb visit and one I hope will be completely invaluable to the boys. CS



Sports News

Our Forms 7 and 8 Football team played their first fixture of the season on Monday against a strong and well organised side from D'overbroeck's.

The first half began with CCCS well on top, but not taking full advantage of their possession in the final third - with a number of good chances missed. After around 15 minutes, the breakthrough goal came following a flowing move down the right side and a cross, which was met at the back post by the onrushing Ed Hare. Troy Buttmer soon added a second from range as we looked to take control. However, just before the break D'Overbroeck's struck back to halve the deficit. The half time team talk message was to continue in the same vein but to move the ball slightly quicker.

Henry Young was running the show in the middle of the pitch, well supported on the flanks by Owen Liu, Will Smyth and Teghena Boham. Both Carson Zhang and Hugo Branderhorst were making their presences felt up front. 2-1 soon became 3-1, with a second strike from Troy. However, that kicked D'Overbroeck's into action and they struck back with two quick goals. This could have derailed our team, but they showed great resolve to turn the tide again and continue to play expansive, passing, Football which led to Troy again beating a couple of players before smashing in his hat-trick to make it 4-3. Jon Silk, Ethan Zhang and Ivan Ershov, in goal, were in full lockdown mode, not allowing the lead to slip once again. With five minutes to play, we made the result safe with the sweetest move of the game - some intricate play from Owen released Teghena down the right hand side and his pinpoint cross was met once again by the ever-willing runner Ed, to complete the scoring in a very similar way in which it had began.

A great start to the season, with lots still to work on and improve though. Well done to all the boys involved. Man of the Match - Henry Young. DP



French Challenge !



Challenge 1 – *Bake-off !*

Challenge 2 – *Lights, camera, action !*

Challenge 3 – *Holiday Adventure !*

Challenge 4 – *Ancient Tales !*

Challenge 5 – *Science Experiment !*

Challenge 6 – *Sing it your way !*

Challenge 7 – *Game player !*

Challenge 8 – *Programming !*

Challenge 9 – *Other !*

CHALLENGE
ACCEPTED



Deadline:

Friday 3rd November 2023



Congratulations to:

Sebastian in Form 3, Périclès, Hugo and Patrick in Form 4

Adam, Alex, James and Theo in Form 5, Matthew, Navraj and Hugo in Form 6

Hugo, Splendour and Trust in Form 7.

Mega winner- Trust in Form 7

Congratulations to ALL Form 8 boys for their entries!

Every boy who submitted an entry will have a treat next Tuesday morning at break time.

Winners will enjoy an extra treat very soon! SL



Nursery News

Nursery children are making the most of our Gappers' last few weeks at our school and they encouraged Alfie to read a story with them, when he visited us.

The children all enjoyed the beautiful autumn sunshine on Wednesday on Christ Church Meadow. The girls drew the digger, and other equipment,

as we watched some of the trees being felled on the Long Walk. On the way back, we examined how the new trees in their new cages were growing, with one of the children remembering that they had cages to protect them from the deer. HB



Science News



This morning the boys in Forms 3 and 4 took a walk through town to visit the Oxford Museum of Natural History. They first enjoyed an informative and very entertaining session in the museum classroom all about the different types of rocks and how they are formed. They got the chance to touch and examine a wide variety of rocks. After a quick break for a biscuit, the boys had the opportunity to explore the museum in small groups; they loved all exhibits, especially the skeletons!

This was a thoroughly enjoyable morning out and I was delighted with the boys' enthusiasm and behaviour. CS



Pre-Prep News



This week Pre-Prep went to watch the trees being felled on the Long Walk. We were fortunate to be joined by one of the tree surgeons, who answered the many questions the children asked about what they were doing, their equipment - and what happens to the wood afterwards. There is going to be a bench made with some of the wood and we look forward to seeing it when it is completed.

On our return, we played in a huge pile of sycamore leaves, throwing them in the air and watching how they fell from side to side to the ground. HB and SB

Form 2 News

Excitement was high as the gaggle of Form 2 boys walked the short way to 'Paul', on the High Street, knowing that a tasty treat was waiting for them. However, there was a catch! Each boy had to put his language skills to the test and ask for his order in French. Luckily, this caused no problem at all and the boys spoke beautifully - bravo! Walking back to school the boys agreed that the croissants and pains au chocolat had tasted delicious and that the chocolat chaud had been the best ever! AE-W



Meet and Greet: Fiona Shi - Parent of Ian (Form 6) and Terry (Form 4)

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? While my childhood dream was to pursue a career in law, fuelled by those captivating lawyer movies, my professional journey has led me to the dynamic field of marketing. Now, I focus on showcasing the offerings of European merchants, contributing to the vibrant intersection of retail and tourism in Asian source markets.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? Brook and I had initially planned a trip to Alaska before starting a family, and it remains a dream destination for us. The allure of its pristine wilderness, majestic glaciers, and the opportunity to witness the Northern Lights makes it an ideal choice. A family trip to Alaska would not only fulfil a long-held dream but also create cherished memories for us all.

Who is your idol? My role model is Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the iconic U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Her unwavering dedication to gender equality and justice, despite facing numerous obstacles, is truly inspiring.

Favourite city or town and in which season? I cherish Beijing in the autumn, where the city is adorned with a captivating tapestry of golden leaves, creating a picturesque and serene atmosphere.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? I would change the world by fostering broader applications of artificial intelligence across various domains.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? A recurring family trait is our annual tradition of planning travels to different destinations, ensuring that our boys experience the wonders of nature first-hand.

Favourite Book? My favorite book is "Gone with the Wind" by Margaret Mitchell. The captivating tale of Scarlett O'Hara's journey through the Civil War era has a timeless allure that I find truly compelling.

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be? If there were no limitations, I would take up surfing as a new and exhilarating hobby.

Any advice on to relax at the weekend? To unwind on the weekends, I enjoy taking leisurely walks along the banks of the River Thames.

Alaska does sound breath-taking. It is hard to believe there are 3,000,000 lakes, which cover around 5 % of the total land area. The UK only has 40,000 lakes! As Alaska is seven times bigger than the UK, you may need to book a very long holiday! I agree, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was inspirational in fighting for gender equality and women's rights, I love Ruth's famous quote "Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception." A trail blazer. It is never too late to start up surfing, there is a great wave park near Bristol! I can really picture you on a long board cranking and making some late drops - everyone watching will be stoked. Maybe you should add Malibu, California, to the holiday destination; you can show the big boys how it's done.

Thank you Fiona, have a great weekend.

Kathryn