



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 1st December 2023

Dear Parents,

All those who attended the Informal Christmas Concert on Wednesday enjoyed a real treat. There has been a number of boys who have been ill recently so the printed programme was very definitely not what actually occurred on the day. There was nothing to be disappointed about though. Of course, we very much missed hearing many of our excellent pupils perform but others leapt into the breach. We were all so impressed by the way in which they did so and it brought home to me the way in which musical performance is just something completely natural to our pupils. They just love performing and seem never to be phased by having to do so. It's almost as normal as breathing.

There were, of course, some exquisite solo performances but what struck me most were the groups who performed; they all seemed to play so well together, feeding off one another's musicality and spirit. One of the groups was a double reed ensemble. This may sound quite an ordinary thing but really it is not. Double reed instruments are, apparently, rare as they are very difficult to play. To have a double reed ensemble in a school is unusual and to have one in a prep school, more unusual still. But to have one with eight players, a virtual miracle. Magic was definitely on show.

We then watched a string group play an 18th Century piece of music as it had never been played before – without a number of its parts – given the number of boys away. But it nonetheless sounded tremendous – we were able to hear all the parts on offer and there was no lack of complexity. One really did have to pinch oneself to remember the ages of the performers.

And then this morning, everyone in the Cathedral was enchanted by the Christingle Service, delightfully presented by Pre-Prep. Just as the beautifully crafted Christingles were being lit, the lights dimmed and the Cathedral was plunged into near darkness. The candlelight, suddenly alive in the darkness, danced over the expectant faces of the pupils who then burst into song. They sang two songs about light: 'Big Star' and perhaps even more appropriately, 'This Little Light of Mine!' and shine those lights most certainly did!

This afternoon, all around the School, the pupils were preparing for another light show – that which is to be held next Friday when we hope that all parents will come after dark to see a number of Christmas Trees beautifully decorated. Having seen what each class has been preparing, I think it's going to be a charming occasion. There will also be food and entertainment on offer as well as a raffle for all the hampers which you have been so generously donating. Do please make sure that the event is in your diary.

I often mention singing in my letters but I hope you will excuse me for doing so again. Our three choirs are all very popular at the moment and on Sunday all three of our College Chapels held Carol Services. Again, there was something in common – they were all full, completely full. The stewards in the Cathedral told me that there were almost 1000 people in the building while in Worcester Chapel there were certainly more than 100 and in Pembroke not many fewer. In the Cathedral and in Pembroke the services were live-streamed, allowing yet more people to enjoy them. Our choristers are providing a very significant service to the people and colleges of Oxford and we should not underestimate the effect they have on so many. This reminded me of the occasion when an elderly lady stopped me one day and said "Would you give this advent calendar to your choristers." I thanked her and asked her why she wished me to pass it on. She said: "I want them to know how much they mean to so many people in this city." It is easy to forget what an important role our choristers play.

As we approach Christmas, it has felt a bit more like Lapland here in Oxford recently. I went over to the playing fields on Wednesday to see the matches being played against New College. It was very fortunate that the boys played with such vigour otherwise they would have been frozen to the spot. As it was they all looked well heated as they ran with such energy. There were six matches some which went our way, some which didn't but this Headmaster was particularly pleased that our A Team won 4 – 1. It's probably not entirely fair to say we were four times better but, well...

This Sunday is Advent Sunday, the beginning of the Church year. The collect for Advent Sunday begins as follows: "Almighty God, Give us the grace to cast away the works of darkness and put upon us the armour of light." May your weekend be full of light at this time of short days and long nights.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2023
Monday 4th - Sunday 10th December

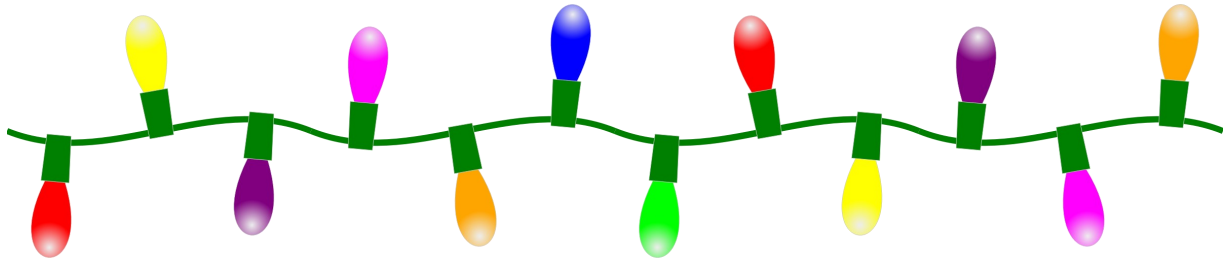
MONDAY 4	
	Boarding House Bake Sale
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.10 - 5.00	Ancient Greek Club (Forms 7 & 8)
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 3 - 5 Football Skills Club (WWH)
TUESDAY 5	
9.00	Trinity Music Exams (WWH)
P.M.	Form 8 French Drama Workshop
2.30	Forms 3 & 4 Football v New College (Away)
WEDNESDAY 6	
8.15	Nursery Christmas Celebration (Nursery) Parking will open on the Broad Walk at 8.00 am Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
10.45 - 12.45	Form 8 French Drama Workshop
1.30 - 2.15	Form 8 French Drama Workshop
3.55 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)
5.40	CC: Christmas Party
THURSDAY 7	<i>Andrew The Apostle</i>
1.15	Nursery and Reception Panto Trip
P.M.	Form 8 French Drama Workshop
FRIDAY 8	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker Clare Hamilton, Sub Warden, St Edward's School, Oxford
10.45	Form 8 French Drama Performance (Form 8 parents welcome)
4.10 - 5.00	Multi Sports Club (Rec - Form 2)
4.30 - 6.00	Christmas Light Show
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 9	
2.30 - 4.00	CC: Music at Oxford Family Concert (Cathedral)
SUNDAY 10	<i>The Second Sunday in Advent</i>

Lost Property

Lugman Ahmad has lost his **Minecraft pencil case** with his name printed on it.

We 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.

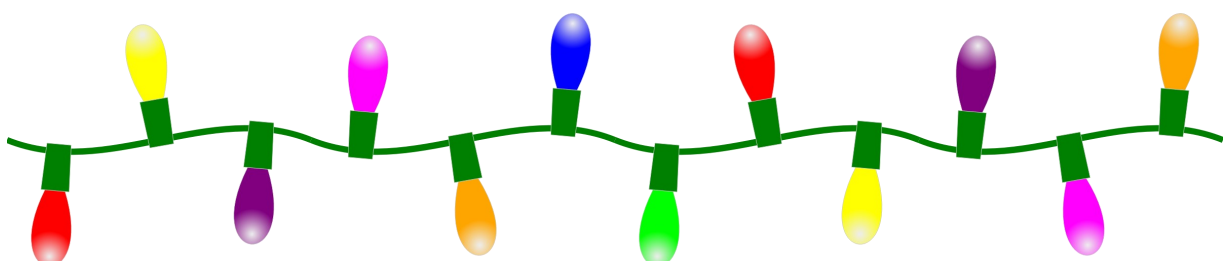
To help with this year's event we kindly ask for donations from parents. If you can give any of the following, please get in touch:

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.



Music News



On Saturday 25th November, four **Pembroke Choristers** went to Reading to participate in a performance of Benjamin Britten's 50-minute work, Saint Nicolas. Cosme, George, Isaac and Matthew joined forces with Reading Festival Chorus (an adult choir directed by Mr Hallam) and a professional orchestra called the British Sinfonietta.



Matthew played the part of 'the young Nicolas', singing the words "God be glorified" several times, accompanied by serene chords on the organ in between flurries of fast sections sung by sopranos and altos.

Cosme, George and Isaac played the parts of 'Timothy, Mark and John'; the 'three pickled boys' brought back to life in a miracle performed by Nicolas... soon to be a Saint! They too were accompanied by organ, before being joined by the whole choir and orchestra.

All of the boys helped lead two hymns sung at the end of the 5th and 9th movements (All people that on earth do dwell/God works in a mysterious way) performed by everyone, including the large audience.

They sang brilliantly and enjoyed the whole experience! GH



Boys in the Prep School put on a wonderful **Informal Christmas Concert** in the Walton Hall this Wednesday. This event gives every ensemble the chance to perform, with some atmospheric carols on offer alongside upbeat repertoire courtesy of John Coltrane and James Bond. I'm very grateful to Mr Somerville, Mr Williams, Miss Mogridge as well as Mr and Mrs Wilson for helping to put such a range of performances together with their pupils.

This concert is traditionally an opportunity for Form 8 boys to perform, in preparation for their imminent Music Scholarship auditions, but unfortunately this year a coughing bug took out all but one of our soloists. Luckily several brave volunteers came to the rescue, and the audience was treated to charismatic ad hoc performances from Will S ('Douce Reverie'), Alexander S ('Doctor Gradus') and the combined Form 4 choristers ('Ding Dong Merrily on High'). Thank you to musicians, music staff and our supportive audience for making this such an enjoyable occasion! SB

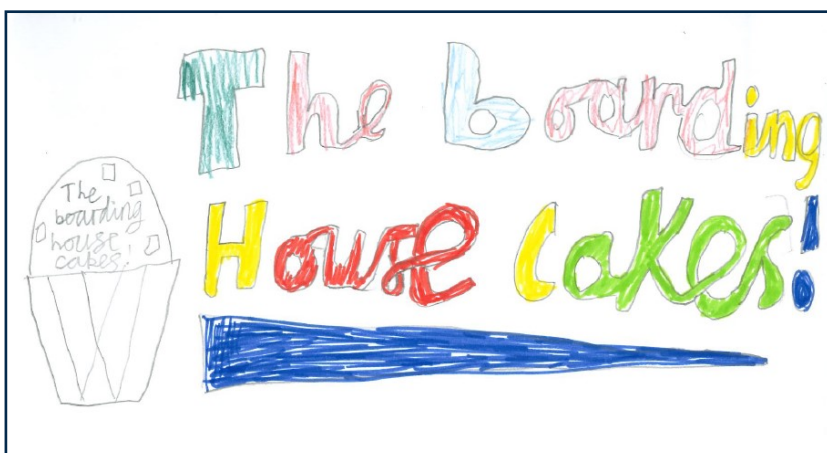


Pre-Prep News

Forms 1 and 2 had an exciting week, getting into the festive mood. The boys made decorations to brighten up the Pre-Prep classrooms and worked hard on making their Christingles for Friday's Assembly in the Cathedral. Pre-Prep was full of music and song this week, as the children practised 'This Little Light of Mine' for Christingle, as well as hearty renditions of the songs and hymns in our forthcoming Nativity. Everyone also had great fun on our trip to watch the Oxford Playhouse Pantomime, and despite vociferous cries of "He's behind you" from our boys, directed at the dastardly pantomime villain, it was, at least, a comfort to discover that the giant was in fact a caring and friendly eco warrior. TR



Pre-Prep Christingle Celebration in the Cathedral



Sports News

Wednesday afternoon saw Forms 7 and 8 boys head over to New College for our first whole year group Football fixture of the season. Building on the 'A team's' victory over D'overbroek's two weeks ago, we were full of confidence. Although there were a number of boys missing through illness, we managed to field three strong looking sides.

Our A team match was a hotly contested affair from the first whistle, with New College taking the lead, against the run of play after 15 minutes. CCCS were working really hard, on a big pitch, creating numerous chances and using the space excellently to play some delightful possession-based Football. The equaliser came after Teghena won possession on the left-hand side and played a ball into Troy who, after two attempts, found the bottom corner. The score line remained level for a big part of the game with both sides having strong spells and decent chances to go ahead. With eight minutes remaining it was CCCS who took the decisive lead when a corner from the right was nodded down to a perfectly placed Will Smyth to slot home.

2-1 quickly became 3-1 when Troy netted for a second time as New College legs began to tire. The final noteworthy moment in the match came from defender Ethan, who had tiptoed just over the halfway line for the first time all afternoon. The ball was cleared towards the imposing center-half who took aim and let fly. The ball flew high up in the air and dropped down just over the goalkeeper's outstretched arms and under the crossbar. Incredible! 4-1.

A brilliant performance from the whole team and a well deserved victory. MOTM - Ethan for impressive defensive display as well as that wonder-goal!

Our B team competed against New College on Wednesday. Despite facing a 3-0 deficit in the first half, we exhibited tremendous determination and resilience. Our boys made a remarkable comeback with outstanding goals from Hugo, Vasisht, and George. Despite our efforts, we narrowly fell short, concluding the match with a final score of 4-3 in favour of New College. MOTM - Abhishek for his exceptional performance in goal.

Our C team played a round-robin with New College's split C team. The first game saw the boys go down in a close game with the final score being 1-0. Strong attacking performances by Trust and Thomas P, coupled with defensive efforts by Russell and Thomas C made the game close and thrilling.

The second game was very similar with the final score being 2-0 to New College. Relying on the dribbling skills of Trust and Thomas, and the courageous saves in goal by Gordon, made this an awesome game to watch. The boys should be very happy with how they played, even though the end results were not in our favour. MOTM - Cosme for a brilliant all round performance. DP



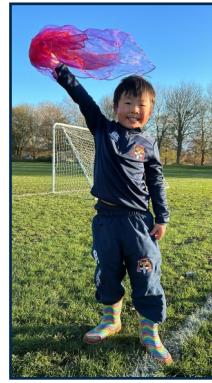
Christmas News!



Miss Helen's Christmas Book Advent Calendar to share with Nursery and Reception children.

Miss Helen made the Book Advent Calendar and the children are all very excited!

Winter News



What could be better on a sunny, but very cold, afternoon than a game of Dragon Tails to burn off all the Pre-Prep energy?

And then... hot chocolate back at school? HB

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 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.

CHRISTMAS TECH CAMP

Next Thing

3D FESTIVE DECORATIONS

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CREDITCARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

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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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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