



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 19th January 2024

Dear Parents,

We had a lovely time in the Cathedral this morning. Tom Quad was covered in frost and the sharp rosy early morning light brilliantly illuminated the buildings. It was certainly a very cold morning. Mr Metcalfe, Headmaster of Malvern College, had come to talk to us and he was just what we needed! His talk was based on St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians in which he advises us to run the race, pointing out that being a Christian takes a great deal of effort and training. Mr Metcalfe used sport as an illustration of what this meant. From a kitbag, he produced three different types of balls; firstly, a Rugby ball, secondly, a football and thirdly a Cricket ball. He then asked for volunteers. A sea of hands was raised; I didn't see one boy who wasn't interested in being selected. Three pairs were chosen from the excited multitude and three people to be counters. The pairs were given 30 seconds to see how many passes they could make. As the preparations advanced, I had, I confess, visions of Cricket balls flying through stained glass windows and footballs smashing hi-tech audio equipment but all was well. As soon as the whistle went, there was an eruption of noise. The groups of boys sitting closest to each pair were exhorted to support their pair as loudly as possible. Would it be those passing the Rugby ball? Would it be those passing the football or was it the cricketers who would be victors? In the end, the Rugby players won by a single pass, and were awarded with a prize of great value – chocolate. By the time this had all ended, everybody had warmed up, the memories of the walk across the frozen quad all but vanished. I suspect the boys will remember this talk for a long while, and Mr Metcalfe's message that training and effort are required to achieve anything substantial, was a very powerful one which I hope the boys will put into practice during the course of this term.

Forms 3 and 4 went to Cokethorpe on Tuesday to take part in a Football competition. There were four matches that were played, three of them were won and one drawn. We were, therefore, undefeated. I am so proud of our boys and their sporting achievements; we are a small school, yet we have such spirit and we work together so well on the sports pitch that we really are playing some fabulous Football and Rugby.

It's easy to forget what a special place Oxford is. The school lies on Brewer Street, hidden amongst the buildings of the university. Just across the road is the expanse of Christ Church Meadow. At this time of year it is a most extraordinary place. The Meadow, where the longhorn cattle normally graze, is, at the moment, covered with water which has, over the past few days, iced up. As I walked around the Meadow the other day, I was so captivated by the view that I started to focus upon what was around me. I found myself listening to the birds that were gathered around the river and the rippling sound of the Cherwell rushing towards the Thames in its swollen state. In the distance, the dreaming spires stood stark against the winter sunlight. I told the boys that they must listen and look, taking time to raise their heads and notice what was around them. They will learn so much about the world from doing so.

I hope that you have all seen the email from Mr Crooks, who has taken on the role of Chair of the PA. He is hoping to meet anybody, on Tuesday morning, who is interested in helping him run the PA, in particular by being a Class Rep. A PA can do so much for a school in terms of fundraising, creating a sense of parental community and in cementing the relationship between the parental body and the school. Please, do get involved if you can.

On Thursday, Mr Harrison spoke to the School. He talked about the importance of saying thank you. He asked where it might be appropriate to use such words. One pupil suggested that it might be appropriate to use them while standing outside the door that had just been held open for them; another suggested it might be appropriate to use them in the Dining Hall after the kitchen staff had prepared a particularly lovely meal, but my favourite answer was offered by the pupil who said, "You can say thank you anywhere in the world." I don't think it could have been put better. The words thank you are universal words applicable at all times and in all places. So, I would like to say thank you to all of you for your support for the School, thank you for your support for the staff. It is very much appreciated. Have a good weekend.

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

## Hilary 2024

### Monday 22nd - Sunday 28th January

MONDAY 22	
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.10 - 5.00	Ancient Greek Club (Forms 7 & 8)
4.10 - 5.00	Football Skills Club (Forms 3 - 5) (WWH)
TUESDAY 23	
12.30 depart	Forms 5 - 8 Oxfordshire Cross Country Championships (Radley College)
2.30	U8 & U9 Football v Chandlings (Away)
WEDNESDAY 24	
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
2.30	Forms 7 & 8 Football v Bruern Abbey (A & C Teams Away - B Team Home)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)
4.30 - 8.30	<b>Forms 3 &amp; 4 Parents' Evening (SchoolCloud)</b>
THURSDAY 25	
9.00 - 11.25	House French Numbers
FRIDAY 26	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, including Nursery and Pre-Prep, speaker The Headmaster
4.10 - 5.00	Multi Sports Club (Reception - Form 2)
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 27	
10.00 - 12.00	CC: Orchestral Workshop - Nicholas Cleobury
6.00	CC: Evensong with Installation of Honorary Canons
SUNDAY 28	
	<i>Septuagesima</i>
	<i>University Third Week</i>



### Music at Christmas

I was incredibly proud of all the boys who contributed to making December's school Carol Service such a success. There was impressive singing on display at every level, and it was heartening to see such a large majority of pupils in action performing with one of our choirs. I was also very grateful to our brass players, and to Mr Somerville, Mr Lee, Mr Wilson and Professor Grahl for their contribution to the success of this

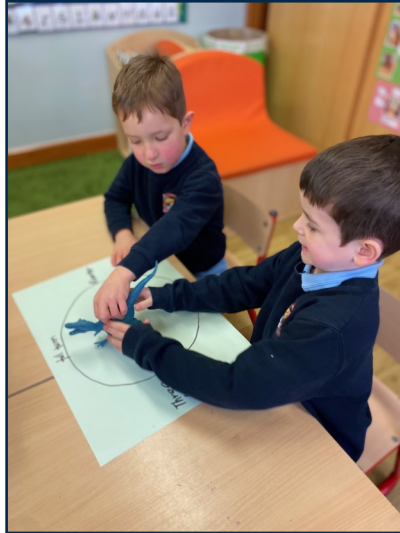
important event. The run-up to Christmas is one of the very best times of year at CCCS, and I really did enjoy the rehearsals... and suspect that the boys did, too! SB

Parents may like to know that the school has a YouTube channel featuring some recent musical events and concerts. Please do subscribe and share with family and friends if you would like to keep up with events in the Music department. You can find our two most recent recordings from this Christmas below:

<https://youtu.be/WhijRtDRzE0> <https://youtu.be/iUJRzZz-l88>

## Form 1 News

Form 1 have had a brilliant start to the new term with lots of kinaesthetic learning adventures and exciting missions around the school. For our Maths, we have been learning all about position and direction, so that we can become experts at creating treasure maps for our Pirates Topic! The boys were tasked with following marching instructions on the playground, using steps and turns. It is clear that we have a number of future leaders in our Pre-Prep, such was the clarity and fervour of their directions and instructions to one another! Well done Form 1! TR



## Making The Most of Oxford Club

This week, the Tuesday Group climbed the 127 steps of the tower of St Mary's, the University Church. We enjoyed the very fine views of Brasenose College, which we visited last term, the Bodleian Library and All Souls' College, which we are hoping to visit this term.

We had a good peek at the luxurious-looking penthouse of the Old Bank Hotel - not on our visiting list! KS



## Visit from Harrow

Last term we welcomed Mr Moy from Harrow School to CCCS. He met a number of boys who are interested in applying for music awards at Harrow, and gave lots of food for thought about how to prepare for auditions and choose a boarding house.

Mr Moy also explained some of the school's traditions, many of which were competitive and gave the opportunity to win special ties! Mr Moy was a chorister and viola-player at CCCS some years ago, so it was particularly good to welcome him back to talk to current boys, now that he works for the Music department at Harrow. SB

## Form 3 News

Form 3 had a great time at the Corinium Museum in Cirencester on Monday. The museum has one of the largest collections of Romano-British treasures from Corinium, Roman Britain's second largest city. We acted out a battle in the Roman Amphitheatre including creating the testudo, or tortoise formation, where the Romans would have once stood! SG

"I really liked playing the Roman games including Calculi!" Viraaaj

"I liked making the mosaics using real Roman tiles!" Harry

"I enjoyed playing in the Amphitheatre." Daniel

"Some of the wax statues looked very creepy!" Sam

"We enjoyed playing the games!" Shaun and George

"I enjoyed making the pottery, sorting the Roman food and marching with the shield." Jedi

"I enjoyed fighting with the shields!" Andy

"I enjoyed play fighting with Viraaaj. It was so much fun!" Sebastian



## Lost Property

Please may I remind you to ask your children to take a look in the large Lost Property Box outside the Walton Hall for any belongings they may be missing.

Thank you. LK

## Les Maths Olympiades 2024 at CCCS

Next Thursday, all boys in Forms 3 - 8 will be involved in our House Competition 'Les Maths Olympiques'.

- Forms 3 & 4 French numbers 0 - 31
- Forms 5 & 6 French numbers 0 - 100
- Forms 7 & 8 French numbers including dates & prices

We'd like to encourage you to revise French numbers this weekend, as a family. SL

In a similar way, Pre-Prep is gearing itself up for next Thursday and Friday when they will be holding their own French Maths Olympics or French Number Games!

Reception will be challenging their number knowledge from 1 - 10 in a matching game and Forms 1 and 2 will be playing Lotto with numbers from 1 - 20. AE-W

## Galette des Rois



On Tuesday lunchtime, we celebrated the Epiphany - the traditional French way. The boys hoped to find a hidden ceramic charm in their puddings, in anticipation of becoming King for the day and having luck on their side for the whole year.

Mr Kilby, our Head Chef, is the only person who does not *fully* appreciate this French tradition; he is relieved when the meal is over and he has accounted for all the 'fèves' (ceramic charms), thankful that everyone had survived!

If you can, do celebrate this tradition at home. There are a few French pâtisseries in Oxford and the 'Galette des Rois' will be available to buy throughout January. SL

## Mini Sports News



Leo (Form 6) travelled to Wellingborough to play in the Table Tennis National Cadet League. (This is the main national Table Tennis league for players aged under 15.)

Leo had a great day, beating some strong players to win eight matches out of ten, and helping his team earn promotion to the league's second division.