



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 22nd March 2024

Dear Parents,

I wrote last week about the inspection which I undertook at another school. Unfortunately, this meant that I was away for the Science Day at Christ Church. By all accounts, and as suggested by the wonderful photos that we saw in last week's Newsletter, Science Day was a huge success - with a great number of staff in the School contributing towards making the day the success it was. Mrs Simpkins, Head of Science, had clearly put a huge amount of effort into the day and it showed. Science is alive and well and throughout the School, boys were constructing DNA models, burning substances and undertaking many colourful investigations. As ever, I marvel at the enthusiasm of our pupils; it's unsurprising that Science is so popular in the School and we are so lucky in the quality of the Science teaching that occurs here. The day was enjoyed by all.

I have been thinking about AI a great deal. It is, of course, something that will be of huge benefit to human beings - and to the world in general. AI has the capacity to be an immensely powerful tool and it will help us to achieve so much in the future. Schools need to adapt themselves to this new world and, increasingly, AI is the subject of discussions held here at school. The first issue concerning AI was the question of how we prevent pupils from passing off the work of AI as their own. This reminded me of the well-known story of Boris Johnson who, while a Classics undergraduate at Balliol College on Broad Street, copied an exercise from a text book. When his tutor pulled him up on it, Boris Johnson apologised, explaining that he had not had time to put the mistakes in!

AI is a danger in this way, but a great deal of focus seems now to be upon how we can use AI to advance learning. Indeed, a recent talk I went to at a senior school suggested that we should teach pupils to use AI to gather material and to advance arguments. Pupils would then assess the material which AI had gathered and adapt accordingly. While this sounds an attractive approach, I can't help thinking about the example of sat nav. I feel myself fortunate to have good knowledge of local Geography and a real sense about how to read and evaluate a map, but I come from a generation that pre-dates sat nav. Those who don't have the advantage of being conversant with conventional maps, tend to be at the mercy of the sat nav, unable to assess where it is taking them or whether the route proposed is a good one or not. My fear is that, if we are not careful, AI will remove our ability to assess its products as we will come to rely upon it very quickly to create arguments, or to perform research. I think there is a lot more thinking that needs to be done and my hope is that we will find a way to harness AI's undoubted strengths, whilst retaining the ability to think and argue for ourselves. As you can imagine, we will be thinking very hard about our relationship with AI, taking part in conversations about it; equally we will continue to teach people how to research, how to reason, how to select material, and how to argue. These are skills which we must not allow to ossify.

I have just had a most engaging experience. A very kind donor, who has endowed three Cathedral Chorister places, came to meet his choristers and to hear them perform. The boys were charming and played beautifully, demonstrating the transformational power of choristership. Towards the end of the session, the door slowly opened and a number of other choristers joined us, curious to meet the donor who takes such an interest in our choristers. We had a delightful afternoon; the boys were most engaging and a great credit to the School and Boarding House. The donor asked Mr Robson if he had anything to play so Mr Robson produced a work by the Russian composer, Scriabin, which had been written for a French pianist of great fame who had lost his right hand in the War. It was, therefore, a piece for the left hand only. Mr Robson played the piece with great sensitivity and dexterity - it was almost impossible to imagine that it had not been played by two hands. We are so fortunate to have so many talented staff.

On Sunday, the Cathedral Choir will be singing in the Palm Sunday Service. This will begin in the Memorial Garden, where the congregation will gather in the company of a donkey, who will then lead us down St Aldates, through Tom Tower, across Tom Quad and then into the Cathedral. The annual appearance of the donkey is a reminder that Holy Week has begun. Between now and Easter Day, there are a large number of services; do come to any of them if you are able. Where the donkey leads we should go!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Hilary 2024 - Monday 25th - Sunday 31st March

MONDAY 25	<i>Monday of Holy Week</i> Trinity Music Exams Year 6 Mock ISEB Pre-tests 9.00 - 11.00 CC: Boys' Rehearsal (Chapter Parlour) 3.30 - 4.30 After School Chess Club (Form 2) 4.10 - 5.00 After School Football Skills Club (Forms 3 - 5) 4.10 - 5.00 After School Ancient Greek Club (Forms 7 & 8) 5.00 - 7.00 CC: Full Rehearsal for St John Passion (WWH)
TUESDAY 26	<i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i> 9.00 - 11.00 CC: Boys' Rehearsal (Chapter Parlour) 12.00 - 1.00 CC: Continuo Rehearsal (Cathedral) 2.30 - 5.30 CC: Full Rehearsal with Orchestra for St John Passion (Cathedral) 4.10 - 5.00 After School Touch Rugby Club (Forms 3 - 8) 7.30 CC: Performance of St John Passion (Service not Concert)
WEDNESDAY 27	<i>Wednesday of Holy Week</i> No Forms 3 & 4 Swimming Year 5 Mock ISEB Pre-tests 8.30 - 9.30 Pre-loved School Uniform Sale (Dining Room) 9.00 - 11.00 CC: Boys' Rehearsal (Chapter Parlour) 3.55 - 4.45 After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4) 4.10 - 5.00 After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8) 5.00 CC: Rehearsal (Boys only) 6.00 CC: Evensong (Boys only)
THURSDAY 28	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> 9.00 - 11.00 CC: Boys' Rehearsal (Chapter Parlour) 9.05 - 10.25 Fromagerie Visit (Forms 3 and 4) 2.00 - 3.30 Pre-Prep Easter Celebration (Cathedral Garden) Parking available on the Broad Walk from 1.30 pm 4.10 Term Ends (Return 24th April 2024) 6.00 CC: Full Choir Rehearsal (Cathedral) 7.30 Maundy Thursday Eucharist
FRIDAY 29	<i>Good Friday</i> 8.45 CC: Rehearsal (Chapter Parlour) 9.00 CC: Full Choir Rehearsal (Cathedral) 10.00 CC: Good Friday Liturgy 4.45 CC: Full Choir Rehearsal (Cathedral) 6.00 CC: Evening Service (Full Choir)
SATURDAY 30	<i>Holy Saturday</i> 10.00 - 12.00 CC: Rehearsal (Chapter Parlour) Choir not required for evening service
SUNDAY 31	<i>Easter Day</i> CC: Choir Term ends after Evensong

GRADES

Sports News



During this term, the boys have been working hard on their Hockey skills. Thanks to Christ Church, we are able to use a small Hockey Astroturf, which is a short walk from our playing fields. This has proved to be very popular amongst our boys - with many of them sporting brand new sticks. Our Colts (Forms 5 & 6) recently played a match against New College School, on the Astroturf at St Edward's School.

All the matches were very competitive with the standout result coming from our A Team, winning 2-1 in a fantastic match. Our seniors (Forms 7 & 8) played matches against

New College School, Thorngrove School and Sherfield School, also on the Astroturf at St Edward's School, plus Bradfield College, in order to play on a full-size pitch. I am so impressed with how the boys have taken to Hockey and how hard they have worked to improve. It's certainly a sport we would like to continue with, and we will be looking to play more fixtures in the future. NH

On Wednesday afternoon we hosted a Forms 5 and 6 Football fixture against Cokethorpe School. The feel of Spring was certainly in the air as we made our way across to Merton Field.

Cokethorpe brought two teams to play, so we set up a triangular fixture where each of our four teams played one half of football against our opposition. This week, our teams were changed around slightly so that our boys had the opportunity to play with some of their peers, who perhaps they hadn't had the chance to line-up alongside, so far, this season.

It was a brilliant afternoon of Football with some excellent performances from our teams. There were particularly impressive individual performances from the following boys: **Rayyan** who showed endless energy and skill when running with the ball, causing all sorts of problems for the Cokethorpe defence, leaving them chasing his shadow at times; **Eaton** who made numerous fantastic tackles and blocks to thwart the Cokethorpe attack; **Harshadeep** for incredible effort and non-stop running both in an attacking and a defensive sense; **Arthur** for an excellent goalkeeping display, making numerous saves and commanding his area really well.

Even more pleasing to see was the effort and togetherness of our boys, who really battled and worked well alongside one another - even when the games got tough. There were two hard fought draws and we fell to a couple of narrow defeats, which could easily have been victories on another day.

This brings us to the end of a hugely successful Football season, across all year groups, and one where we have made enormous improvements in terms of understanding and playing the game of Football in a positive way.

Well done to all the boys who have represented the School so brilliantly over the past few months on the Football pitch. DP

French News



Form 2 turned into chefs on Tuesday and made their very own pizzas, during French. One of our topics this term has been fruit and vegetables and saying what we like and don't like. Since there was a resounding "*J'adore la pizza!*" from Form 2, why not make our own, we thought?

The boys had to say their pizza toppings in French. Rest assured, you will be pleased to know that if you ever find yourself in a French pizzeria, your sons will place your pizza order in perfect French.



Bravo Form 2 - and Merci to the team in the kitchen for putting up with all the flour! AE-W

CCCS School Play



Performances of the School Play, *Gallinsay*, will be on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd March at 6.30 pm in the Walton Hall.

Worcester Choristers Easter Course

Please find details of a course in Oxford next month. This is a Not-for-Profit organisation offering holiday courses to children who love to sing. There will be three tutors delivering the course plus some seasonal repertoire. Please see the information below:

Easter Course: 8th & 9th April 2024 (Monday & Tuesday) for those aged 7-13.

Where: Worcester College, Oxford.

Tutors include:

Caius Lee, Director of Music at Worcester College, Oxford.
Benjamin Cox, Musical Director and Composer.
Specialist singing teacher, Alison Cooke.

In addition to learning the main repertoire, we also cover music appreciation and history, music theory and singing lessons in small groups - lots to engage and challenge, and lots of fun.

Repertoire: Sumer is icumen in, This Joyful Eastertide, Now is the month of maying, Panis Angelicus, Three folk songs from Sprig of Thyme by John Rutter; The Bird's Lament and The Owl, from The Aviary - Richard Rodney Bennett.

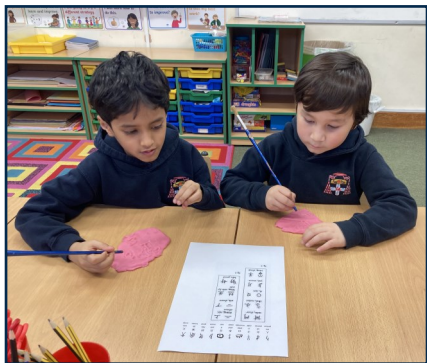
Booking is via our website: [Easter Course Oxford 2024 for ages 7-13 - The Oxford and Cambridge Singing School \(oxbridgesingingschool.co.uk\)](https://www.oxbridgesingingschool.co.uk) Bursaries are available for all our courses.

If bringing a friend, they are each eligible for a £20 discount per family, all the details are online. Terms apply and the details are online.

*"Thank you.... Your course is the only thing my son sets his alarm for in the mornings.
He loves it." (Parent of past attendee)*

Should you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Samantha Wickham (Director, The Oxford & Cambridge Singing School: www.oxbridgesingingschool.com) CL

THE | OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE
SINGING SCHOOL



Form 2 News

In Form 2, our topic is the Shang Dynasty. During this time, Oracle Bones (also known as Dragon's Bones) were used in divine ceremonies to foretell events in the future. Symbols carved on the bones (usually ox or turtle shell) eventually became words, and a recognisable Chinese script developed from this.

The boys had a go at copying some of these symbols to write their own messages. We found that some symbols were harder to write than others, particularly the symbol for 'good', but we came up with some messages using these symbols such as 'sheep side by side' and 'moon above mountain'. MHW

Art News

Congratulations to the following boys whose Art has been selected, out of nearly 2,500 pieces, for an Oxford Schools Art Exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum.

The Exhibition will be taking place on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th May.

Reception - Ethan, **Form 1** - Fraser, **Form 2** - Lucas and Benji

Form 3 - Shaun Cui and Harry, **Form 4** - Richard, Raphael, Jaden and Patrick

Form 6 - Gintas, Matthew and Navraj

Form 8 - David and Vasisth

Well done to everyone who entered!

All entries will be exhibited in our School Art Exhibition on Friday 28th June. EE

Forms 7 & 8 Visit Cadbury World

Last Monday Forms 7 & 8 went on an exciting trip to Cadbury World, Bourneville. Huge anticipation surrounded the trip, particularly considering we would be visiting the 'Home of Chocolate'. The day proved to be both informative, and filled with chocolate. We began with a Geography Workshop, focusing on the story of how Cadbury's was created and its huge commercial presence across the world. After lunch we were allowed into the factory and museum, where we learnt about the chocolate making process, with opportunities to try some along the way!

Finally, we visited the shop, where the boys were able to spend their pocket money - many boys left with armfuls of chocolate bars - which they assured me were for their families...

All in all, a fantastic day where the boys were beautifully behaved and a credit to the School. NH





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Easter holiday yoga sessions!



Thursday 4th April

NOA Community Centre, Summertown, OX1 7DP

- **10:15-11am** 3- 6yr olds.
- **11:10-11:55am** 7-11yr olds. £9 per child



Tatty Bumpkin sessions guide children through creative, engaging flows that come to life through story telling & music.
Concentration & physical confidence nourishes as strength, balance & co-ordination skills are mastered.
The yoga inspired sessions gift children precious time to relax & be.

As a holiday club, the stories are enhanced with a craft activity,
learning about
simple yoga moves and relaxation.

**For more information, or if you wish to book your child a place
please contact Hannah Halsey-Jones**



E:Oxford@tattybumpkin.com

W:childreninspiredbyyoga/Oxford

Holy Week Services

Parents and families of CCCS pupils are warmly invited to join Christ Church Cathedral for the services of Holy Week.

These are services full of drama and excitement, in which through music, words, symbols and action, we are imaginatively drawn into the story of Jesus.

The Journey to the Cross at 3.00 pm on Good Friday is particularly designed for children and their families.

Palm Sunday, 24th March

10.50 am: Palm Sunday Procession and Eucharist
(meet in Memorial Garden, with a real donkey)

Tuesday 26th March

7.30 pm: Bach's *St John Passion*

Maundy Thursday, 28th March

7.30 pm: The Eucharist of Maundy Thursday with Foot Washing

9.00 pm: The Watch

Good Friday, 29th March

10.00 am: The Liturgy of Good Friday

3.00 pm: Journey to the Cross (Families' Service)

6.00 pm: Choral Reflection for Good Friday

Holy Saturday, 30th March

8.00 pm: Easter Vigil with Baptism and Confirmation

Easter Day, 31st March

11.00 am: The Eucharist of Easter Day

6.00 pm: Festal Evensong for Easter Day

Revd Philippa White

Precentor

Christ Church Cathedral



**OXFORDSHIRE YOUTH BRASS GROUP
AND
OXFORDSHIRE YOUTH BASSOON ENSEMBLE
OPEN EVENING
WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL
CENTRE FOR MUSIC, OXFORD**

Bassoon Ensemble (Grade 2+) 6.15-7.45pm

Brass Ensemble (Grade 5+) 7 – 9pm

With a combined social activity at 7.45-8.00 pm

Centre for Music
Bayswater Road
Oxford
OX3 9FF



Form 4 News

In our RS lessons we have been talking about the meaning and traditions of Ramadan, and tasting different types of dates from Jordan, Algeria, Iran and Saudi Arabia. EF



More Form 4 News...



For their History homework, Form 4 boys were asked to build motte and bailey castles or stone keep castles, using different materials.

Take a look at the boys' models. They used paper, junk materials, sand, pancakes, wooden blocks, paper and clay. One boy even started building a castle in his own garden with his dad! EF



Form 3 News



Congratulations to Form 3 boys on a fantastic Class Assembly this week!

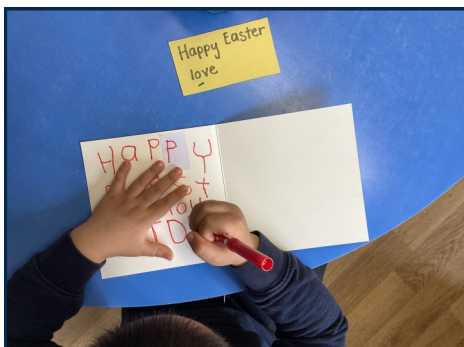
First, we were transported into the rainforest with exciting body percussion sound effects.

Next, we heard all about the different layers of the rainforest and where rainforests are found.

Finally, we had a true or false quiz. Did you know that black howler monkey calls can be heard more than 5km away, Korowai people live in tree houses 45 metres off the ground and there are 40,000 plants in the Amazon rainforest!? SG

Nursery Progress

It is wonderful to watch the sustained practice and determination of one of our Nursery children to move from just writing his initials in capitals in his Christmas card, to a thoughtful dedication in his Easter card. HB



D.T. Corner



Nursery News

This week in Nursery, the children have been demonstrating lots of their skills. The youngest children have been practising their emerging knowledge of farm animals and their young. Others have shown that they are very proficient at keeping the environment tidy with their dustpan and brush skills. We have been using our knowledge of our letter sounds, building words with the 'moveable alphabet.'

The children have also been working with Miss Helen's special jigsaw, "It's got no picture, and you talk about what you're doing whilst putting it together." I overheard one child tell another. HB



Form 1 News

Form 1 have been studying the signs of Spring in our Science lessons this week. One of the incredible benefits of our school's location, is that we can go out on a walk and engage with nature in a few short strides. In addition to Woodland School, Form 1 spent lots of time outdoors this week, exploring the natural wonders of Christ Church Meadow. Pupils proved themselves to be tremendous 'nature detectives' tracking down an abundance of signs that 'Spring has sprung', from tree blossoms beside the Cathedral, to birds' nests, and a multitude of flowers and buds everywhere. We tracked down a very cheeky squirrel and even found time to have a lovely chat with a family of friendly ducks. When the weather bruised in, with a 'spring' in our steps, we made our way back to the classroom for a fun game of Top Trumps. TR

