



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 29th March 2024

Dear Parents,

It seems extraordinary that we are already at the end of term, despite the fact that we have had a longer term than many other schools. I suspect that one of the reasons for this is the number of activities which have happened during the course of this term. And indeed, in the few days since I last wrote to you we have been extremely busy.

Last weekend, a large number of us watched the School Play. Mr Richards had, as is his custom, written the Play, directed it, and composed the music which accompanied it. As ever, it was a wonderful event. Mr Richards has a knack for writing plays featuring a large number of parts, so that we don't have a small number of people hogging the limelight. So many boys were able to demonstrate their skills and there were considerable skills on view – too many to pick out any individuals. But, needless to say, the lines were witty and entertaining, sprinkled through with clever literary references and subtle puns. The story had an interesting moral, in this case the destructive elements of screens. A new innovation this year was a list of witty definitions on the back of the programme. Mr Richards' definition of a screen went something along the lines of "An electronic device which has the power to command total attention." I thought this a relevant definition of my experience of watching the Play, which 'commanded the total attention' of all those who witnessed it. The Play was set on a Scottish island called Gallinsay, represented on the scenery as beautiful white clouds with the sound of seagulls, which made me yearn to be up on the west coast! It was lovely to see the Sub Dean and Mrs Moger in the audience on the Friday night performance - they have come to us from the outer Hebrides, where Canon Moger had a parish on the island of Lewes. I suspect the Play brought back a certain degree of nostalgia, even if the particular characters portrayed on the stage were not ones Canon and Mrs Moger necessarily recognised!

I had a wonderful afternoon yesterday, attending our Pre-Prep Easter Bonnet Parade and Egg Hunt. Very sadly, we were not able to hold the event in the Cathedral garden because of the appalling weather – perishingly cold rain. So, we all gathered in the Walton Hall. None of this in any way dimmed the spectacular colour of the occasion. The hats were fabulous. Eggs and chickens predominated, sometimes encircled by beautiful wicket fences; the scenes were invariably couched on brilliant green turf. We had rabbits and daffodils, and some of the hats had religious symbolism too. One hat had some Haribo sweets in it – a departure from tradition but, as we know, the best traditions always develop. The children paraded around the hall as if they were in a Paris fashion show. I did not select any winners – as much as anything because the standard was so high – but a number of years ago I did make a judgement, which was followed by a fight – amongst the parents! This year everyone seemed happy. And of course, rarely have a group of children seemed more excited as when they charged off to find their eggs. The Walton Centre must have been stuffed full of eggs because all the children came back with handfuls of them, an achievement which won them a tasty prize!

But of course, none of this colourful activity would have happened without Holy Week, which is underway as I write. On Sunday, a large congregation gathered on the Meadow by the War Memorial Garden to follow a donkey up St Aldates and into Tom Quad. It was a spectacular occasion causing curious crowds to gather as we moved up the street following the donkey's slow, but unerring, journey towards the Cathedral. On Tuesday, the Cathedral Choristers sang Bach's St John Passion, an extraordinary moving and complex work of over two hours in length. Then on Tuesday evening, The Last Supper was commemorated in a service which ended with the Cathedral's lights being dimmed as people slipped away into the night, as the disciples did on that first Maundy Thursday when they realised, as Jesus had been taken prisoner, that life was now very dangerous. If you are around over the next three days, do consider attending a service, particularly one of the two on Easter Sunday itself. They are joyous occasions with splendid music.

It has been a wonderful term, full of achievements, but I am sure that the boys and staff are ready for a break. I asked the Prep boys to look around them during the holidays, in the hope that they might see the beauty of the world at this stunning time of year. I quoted the English Artist and Poet, William Blake, who spent a lifetime observing life, and the world, with a sharp eye. He wrote: "The tree which moves some people to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing that stands in the way." I hope that you all have a joyful holiday, conscious of the many blessings you have - most especially your wonderful children whom we have the honour to teach.

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

## Trinity 2024 - Monday 22nd - Sunday 28th April

MONDAY 22	
9.00	School Office Opens
TUESDAY 23	
9.00	School Office Opens
6.00	<b>CC/CP: Return</b>
6.00	<b>CC/CP: Parents' Meeting (WWH)</b>
WEDNESDAY 24	
7.55	CC: Rehearsals Resume
8.25	<b>Term Begins</b>
1.30 - 4.00	Mock CE French Speaking Revision Session (Form 8) (WWH)
THURSDAY 25	
	<i>Mark the Evangelist</i>
	PC: Rehearsals Resume
	WC: Rehearsals Resume
6.00	CC: Evensong (Boys and Clerks)
FRIDAY 26	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker tbc
1.30 - 4.00	Forms 5 & 6 Choristers Mock ISEB Pre-Tests
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 27	
11.00 - 7.00	Pembroke Chorister Service (Tewkesbury Abbey)
SUNDAY 28	
	<i>The Fourth Sunday after Easter</i>
	<i>University Second Week</i>
11.00	CC: Choral Eucharist (Boys and Clerks Rehearsal)
1.30	CC: Rehearsal
2.30	Service Celebrating 30th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women (Frideswide Voices, Boys and Clerks)
3.30	PC: Evensong (Pembroke Chapel)

### House Music Competition 2024

I have been speaking to boys about next term's big musical project: the House Music Competition. Instrumental auditions will begin as soon as we return in Trinity Term and are open to any pupils in Forms 3 to 8. I hope that boys will use the Easter break to start choosing and preparing their audition pieces, with the following guidelines in mind:

Juniors (Forms 3 & 4) and Intermediates (Forms 5 & 6) one acoustic instrumental piece no longer than 4 minutes. Seniors (Forms 7 & 8) one acoustic instrumental piece no longer than 5 minutes

Boys can enter on as many different instruments as they like, and there will also be House songs to learn from April onwards. Parents are warmly invited to the Final in the Cathedral at **1.30 pm on Friday 17th May**. If you can't join us in the afternoon, the competition will be professionally live-streamed and available to watch afterwards too. This year's adjudicator will be Sarah Baldock, Director of Music at Winchester College.

Please do encourage your sons to start practising for the busy musical term ahead, and have a wonderful break! SB



## Pre-Prep Music News

The boys in Pre-Prep have been finding out about musical instruments and the different families to which they belong. They have learnt about the characteristics shared by brass, woodwind and string instruments, and had a lot of fun making sounds on a few too!

I'm especially grateful to our Prep boys, who have loved the chance to visit and perform to younger years. SB



## Form 2 News

In preparation for Easter this week, Form 2 moulded their own Easter egg baskets out of clay. The boys carefully used their fingers to smooth the clay out, making sure there weren't any bumps on the bottom of their baskets, so that they would sit straight. Once smooth, pieces of clay were rolled out for the handles, which were carefully and securely attached to the baskets.

Next, the boys used a variety of utensils to make patterns in the clay. Some chose to do Easter drawings, such as the Easter bunny with some Easter eggs, some chose to do dots, spirals, zig-zags or other patterns. The boys patiently waited for their baskets to fully dry and once they had, it was time to paint them. We observed how Easter is a time full of both bright colours, and softer pastel colours. I demonstrated that if the boys would like to use more pastel colours, all they needed to do was add some white paint to the colour that they wanted to lighten. With this in mind, the boys picked out their paint colours, mixing them to the shade they required. The tricky part was getting the paint into all the nooks and crannies of the patterns we had designed. Everybody ended up with their own (beautifully done) Easter egg baskets to take home. The Easter bunny may have even dropped some chocolate eggs into the baskets... MHW



## Charity News

Our Making the Most of Oxford Club had great fun this week making and selling cakes.

We raised over £60 for Oxford Mutual Aid, which provides emergency food and toiletries to families in the Oxford area.

Thank you to all those who bought cakes and helped us give back to our community. KS





## French News

Forms 3 and 4 had fun practising their French language skills outside the classroom today on a mini trip to the Covered Market in Oxford. The task was for each boy to ask for their ordered cheese from *La Fromagerie*, where the wonderful array of cheeses made mouths water and most eyes stand on stalks - some of the cheese on display was enormous!

The requests slipped off the boys' tongues in smooth French and everybody who wanted one was given a small piece of *Brie de Meaux* to taste. We left, all clutching our bags of cheese.

Apart from visiting *La Fromagerie*, the boys had to pretend they were visiting a real French *marché*, identify the variety of shops and stands, and work out what they were selling. AE-W



## Nursery News

Nursery children have enjoyed celebrating Easter this week. We have planted seeds and made 'crispy cakes', learning lots of new skills and vocabulary. I am impressed at how the children quickly learned how to transfer mixture, using two spoons, into the cake cases.

One of the children rekindled his skills in building a sandcastle! Let's hope the weather holds up for further sandcastle adventures. HB



## Lost Property

We have a large amount of lost property in the huge black box in the Walton Centre Foyer.

There will be somebody in school from 9th April, 9.00 am - 4.00 pm, if you would like to take a look for any belongings your children are missing. LK



**D.T.  
Corner**







**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



### **School Play**



On 22nd and 23rd March Mr Richards' latest play took place: Gallinsay. Like Mr Richards' other amazing plays, many different sub-plots were going on. For example...

There was a chaotic, yet happy and cosy, family of one father (an unsuccessful author), one mother (a very successful author), and their three rowdy sons: Jasper, Miles, and Cornelius. The family received an unexpected letter, which prompted them to go to a mysterious, uninhabited Scottish isle.

There was also a group of young people who wished to escape from "the hubbub of the modern world" – enjoying a life free of screens and other such things. An escape from "the electronic tyranny". In addition to this already unique set

of characters, there was a mysterious monk and a pair of boatmen – one more helpful than the other.

It was a joy to be part of this play, and I think it is a perfect conclusion for my acting at CCCS, as this is Mr Richards' best play to date. A culmination of excellent writing, boundless creativity, and an exquisite cast. Micky



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## Easter holiday yoga sessions!



**Thursday 4th April**

NOA Community Centre, Summertown, OX1 7DP

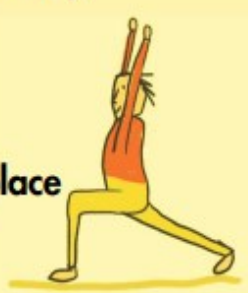
- **10:15-11am** 3- 6yr olds.
- **11:10-11:55am** 7-11yr olds.      £9 per child



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**



## Easter Bonnet Parade

