



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 3rd May 2024

Dear Parents,

I have even more admiration for the Romans now having attended our Romans Day in the William Walton Hall this afternoon. We were visited by The History Man, who arrived with all things Roman - maps, games, writing implements and weapons. I learnt afterwards that everything he brought, he had made himself – as he put it, “Roman armour is not in general demand these days.” There were beautiful games, some made from wood and others from bones; there were wax tablets as well as some gladiatorial equipment, including beautifully engraved helmets. The skill and care which had gone into their manufacture was extraordinary. Among the many things that struck us all was the weight of some of the equipment – the metal helmets would have been very heavy to wear, particularly for lengthy periods of time, and many of the swords and axes very heavy to wield. Roman soldiers and gladiators must have been very strong. The boys were in seventh heaven and the enthusiasm with which they carried out all the activities available was a joy to witness. This was kinaesthetic learning at its best.

Last weekend, I went with the Pembroke Choristers on their visit to sing in Tewkesbury Abbey in Gloucestershire. This magnificent church, the second largest parish church in the country and arguably the most magnificent, is merely the parish church for a certain area of Tewkesbury, yet it is very significantly larger than Christ Church Cathedral, which is the cathedral church of England's largest diocese. We guessed that it was about eight times the size of Pembroke Chapel, the building in which the choristers usually sing, but the choristers filled the Abbey with sound in the most spectacular way. It was a great success and it was good to see so many parents and staff attending on a Saturday afternoon. We went on a quick tour of the building; the boys particularly enjoyed a tomb which had the figure of an emaciated looking man being consumed by a snake and a mouse. We saw the door of the sacristy which had, hammered onto it, bits of mediaeval armour which had been collected from the field of the battle of Tewkesbury. We saw the breath-taking ceiling of the Quire studded with suns, the symbol of the House of York, the Royal house which was victorious at the battle of Tewkesbury, and which wished to leave its glorious mark upon this magnificent building. I would like to commend the boys on their splendid singing and upon the interest they took in everything they were shown.

I was delighted to be able to watch some Cricket matches on Merton Field on Wednesday. Our boys had not had much time to practise and yet they played with real commitment and enthusiasm. I enjoyed watching us clinch a narrow victory over MCS, winning by 5 runs - having bowled all their batsmen out. Our boys were ecstatic. Mr Harrison and his team have managed to engender a real enthusiasm about Cricket, which is very heartening to see, particularly given the imminent arrival of the Pavilion, which will allow us to host Cricket in the future. I am always interested to see how interested tourists are, while walking through the Meadow, when our boys play Cricket. A match on Merton Field inevitably attracts large crowds of onlookers in the way that Rugby and Football do not. I suspect it's a quintessentially English sight!

On Monday, I attended, and indeed performed in, the double reeds concert. We were joined by some outstanding senior players from Wells Cathedral School and the Purcell School of Music, who bewitched us with their playing. At the end, all three schools performed a piece together. The piece had been written for a group of double reed players of widely differing levels, having parts both for complete beginners and very accomplished musicians. I was handed a Bassoon reed and had to blow it, spelling out the word bassoon in Morse Code. It was exhilarating to take part in an orchestral piece, my first time ever doing so, having only played the piano (badly) in my youth.

This week, the whole of Pre-Prep visited the Botanical Gardens on the other side of Christ Church Meadow. The children came back telling stories of poisonous trees and carnivorous plants. They even saw bananas growing on a tree. So enthusiastic were they all, that I have determined to go again very soon. I'm looking forward to seeing the poisonous tree - so I know how to avoid coming to harm when out and about!

I warned the boys not to come into school on Monday – they will find no one here, as it is Bank Holiday. I hope that you all have a wonderful long weekend and I very much hope that we see at least a glimmer of sun.

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

## Trinity 2024 - Monday 6th - Sunday 12th May

MONDAY 6	
6.00	<b>Bank Holiday - School Closed</b> <b>CC/CP: Return</b>
TUESDAY 7	
9.30 - 12.30	Form 1 Visit: Museum of Natural History
2.15	Forms 3 & 4 Cricket v New College (Away)
4.00 - 4.45	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Summer Sports Club (Forms 1 - 3)
WEDNESDAY 8	
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
9.30 - 11.45	Pre-Prep Stay & Play
2.15	U10 & U11 Cricket v Dragon (Home)
2.15	U12 & U13 Cricket v Dragon (Home)
3.30 - 4.15	After School Mandarin Club (Reception - Form 2)
3.55 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 5 & 6)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)
THURSDAY 9	<i>Ascension Day</i>
PM	French Speaking Mock Exams (Form 8)
2.30 - 4.15	U8 & U9 Cricket v Chandlings (Away)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Rugby Club (Forms 3 - 8)
FRIDAY 10	
8.45	Cathedral Assembly, speaker Mr Rob Jones, Headmaster Rendcomb College
4.10 - 5.00	After School Cricket Club (Forms 3 - 8)
	CC: OUT (Return Sunday 4.00 pm)
SATURDAY 11	
SUNDAY 12	<i>The Sunday after Ascension Day</i>
	<i>University Fourth Week</i>
AM	<i>Town and Gown Charity Run</i>

### Moving Up Day

Pre-Prep children will be attending Cathedral Assembly on Friday 17th May.

We would like to invite Pre-Prep parents to join us for coffee and a chat, after the Assembly, to learn about life in our Prep School.

Pre-Prep parents who would like a tour of our Prep School on Friday 17th will be most welcome. LK

## Music News



We hosted an extraordinary event on Monday, aimed at oboists and bassoonists, with a series of workshops during the morning and an afternoon concert at the Cathedral. It was an honour to host staff and teenage players from two of England's four specialist music schools - the prestigious Purcell School and Wells Cathedral School, who had brought their entire double reed departments - as well as staff from the Royal Academy of Music and Nottingham University, who had come to hear a piece specifically written to help recruit new oboists and bassoonists. Even Mr Murray featured in

the programme, heroically playing on a bassoon reed!

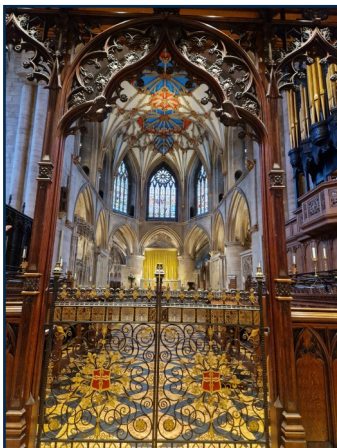
It was a special honour for CCCS to host this unique event with two senior music schools, given that we are a prep school, but our instrumentalists are highly-regarded and it is also most unusual that 10% of CCCS boys play a double reed instrument. This is thanks to the wonderful teaching from Miss Mogridge (who played a huge part in bringing everyone together on Monday) and Mrs Watson. You can hear a clip of the magical performance - featuring everyone from professional-standard players to children who had never played before - here: <https://youtu.be/jSoMjJh4QD8>. SB



**House Music Competition:** This is a reminder that boys have until Friday 10th May to submit their instrumental auditions for House Music. A list of finalists will go up in school on the afternoon of 10th May. I have very much enjoyed hearing auditions so far, and am looking forward to many more after the weekend! SB

## Pembroke Evensong in Tewkesbury Abbey

The Pembroke Choristers gave a magnificent performance at Tewkesbury Abbey on Saturday, singing with the adult members of the choir for an unforgettable visiting evensong. This spectacular building dates from the twelfth Century, and the boys were given a tour which included a special visit to see the famous sacristy door, covered with horse armour recovered from the Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471. The Abbey is a huge building but the boys filled it with their tremendously powerful sound, giving thrilling renditions of repertoire by Haydn and Brewer. Pembroke Choir is simply going from strength to strength and I am immensely proud of them all! SB





## Form 4 News

On 30th April 2024 we had a trip to Christ Church to learn about how Alice in Wonderland was made. At first, we saw a statue of Alice Liddell's father who was always late and was the inspiration for the White Rabbit. Then we saw the Dean's Garden and the Cheshire Cat Tree as well as Alice's Door, which she used as a shortcut out of the garden. Then we saw the huge Jabberwocky Tree!

Next, we went to the Dining Hall where Harry Potter was filmed and saw a stained glass window with Alice Liddell, Lewis Carroll and the Dodo. Because Lewis Carroll stuttered when saying his last name, Dodgson, he was given the nickname: the Dodo. Finally, we saw some very special books with changing pictures! I really enjoyed the day and would love to go back. Armaan

We walked through the cloisters to the Chapter House to see different editions of the book 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' This was my favourite part of the trip. There was one of the first editions of the book, a pop-up version, and a book with watermarks on its side. I learnt so much about Alice, I doubled my knowledge. Hugo

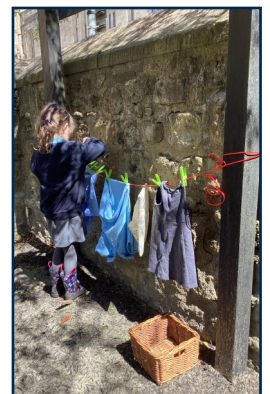


## Nursery News

The children have been welcoming our new friends to Nursery, introducing them to how we work with different kitchen implements to transfer water around the garden.

There was a birthday celebration for one of the dinosaurs, with an accompanying cake. "It's for the herbivore" one of the children explained. "We can make another cake for the meat eater in a minute." "That's for the carnivorous one?" another child asked quizzically. "Yes you're right" her friend replied.

With the brief arrival of beautiful spring weather came the children's washing line in the garden. The children all came in the morning to look at the new activity and to hang up the school uniform Miss Helen had placed in a basket. There was lots of discussion about pegging items up at home - versus using a tumble drier. HB







## Sports News

This week saw our first Cricket fixtures of the term. On Tuesday, Forms 3 & 4 played against MCS. All the boys acquitted themselves fantastically and we came away victorious from every match. The simple objective was to be better at the end of the game than we were at the beginning. The boys certainly rose to this challenge and achieved their goal.

Next week, we will have another chance for improvement when we play New College School on Tuesday.



On Wednesday, our Forms 5 & 6 boys also played against MCS. Again, being our first match of the season, we simply wanted to see improvements during the game and to better our understanding of how we should play. All four matches were close and extremely competitive. Our A Team were winners in a really thrilling match. We batted first, posting a score of 62 for 7 wickets. Some excellent bowling put us in a position to win the match. Ray (Form 5) took the final wicket, meaning that we won by 3 wickets and 5 runs. An Excellent achievement. NH

## PA News

Thank you once again for the generosity shown by Pre-Prep parents, both in contributing items to the raffle and in purchasing tickets, at our Easter Egg Hunt event toward the end of Hilary Term. Over £150.00 was raised and the intention is for these funds to be used to donate some very smart CCCS branded aprons for pupils to use for cooking and arts and crafts activities. MC



## Making the Most of Oxford Club

This week, our 'Making the Most of Oxford' Club walked the short distance to Oxford Castle & Prison to explore what was at the beginning of Oxford's history. The boys climbed the mound of the 11th Century Motte-and-Bailey castle, peered down into the Vaulted Well Chamber and marvelled at the fact that all of this would have been dug and built by hand, with only shovels and simple equipment.



From the timeline, on the Castle forecourt, we read that Oxford Castle's earliest recorded use as a prison was in 1216 where misbehaving students were imprisoned. Luckily one of our own CCCS pupils only briefly underwent the same treatment.... AE-W



## Boarding House News

This week, Edward Jones joined the Cathedral Choir as a Probationer in Form 5. Edward joins us from Buckingham and is settling into Boarding House life very well.

We are very happy to welcome Edward to CCCS. JR

## After School Care Fun

This week, in After School Care, we have embraced the warmer weather. The children have enjoyed playing outside, zooming along on the bikes and playing football. MM





## Form 1 News



Earlier this week, all of the children in Pre-Prep embarked on an idyllic sun-drenched trip to The Botanic Gardens. It was absolutely wonderful to have everyone together as one big happy family. The children were lucky enough to be able to enjoy guided sessions in the enormous greenhouses, and they had an opportunity to learn about how different plants thrive in specific climates and environments around the world. In the tropical house, our eagle-eyed children spotted banana plants, cocoa beans, and cotton growing, as well as learning about 'drip tips' on tropical leaves and having fun using spray bottles to test them out. In the arid desert house, our children rose to the challenge of not touching anything that might be poisonous or spiky and we had a chance to see how aloe vera plants store water. Mr Kilby, our Chef, made us a delicious picnic lunch!

Out in the gardens, the children were tasked with all manner of creative activities, from flower spotting, to treasure hunts, to a relaxing session of plant-themed yoga on the lawns, and of course, finding The Cheshire Cat hidden in a tree! The day was a huge success, and on the way back, one boy said to me, "Mr Robards, I love all of the trips we go on in Pre-Prep, but I think this one was actually my favourite!" I could not agree more! TR



Dorchester Festival  
presents

**Maki Sekiya  
& Ilya Chetverikov**

Two concerts  
Two pianos

**8pm Sounds from a Celestial Sphere**

**6pm Carnival of  
The Animals**



Wednesday 8th May  
Dorchester Abbey

[www.dorchesterfestival.com](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com) Tickets



## Wine Tasting

Christ Church  
Thursday 16th May  
6.00 - 7.30 pm  
£18 per ticket

### *Sparkling*

Crémant de Bourgogne  
NV Brut

### *White Wine*

Chablis, Domaine Passy le Clou  
2021, Burgundy France

Hugel dry Riesling 2015 Alsace,  
France

### *Red Wine*

Vina Ardanza 2009 Rioja, Spain

Chateau Phelan Segur 2008,  
Bordeaux, France

### *Sweet Wine*

Chateau Petit-Vedrine, 2010  
Sauternes

