



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 24th May 2024

Dear Parents,

The atmosphere in the Cathedral yesterday was a joyous one. We had our annual School Confirmation at which four of our pupils were confirmed. It was a particular pleasure to see Bishop David Jennings, formerly Bishop of Warrington, as he was only asked to take the Confirmation Service at 10.00 pm the night before. This was because the Bishop who was supposed to be conducting the service, went down with Covid on the eve of the event. Bishop David performed the service with energy and warmth and it was a truly wonderful occasion. The whole School sang four hymns and several responses with real energy, and burst into unprompted applause at the end of the service when the boys processed down the Cathedral holding candles symbolising the fact that Jesus, whom they had committed to follow, was the light of the world. It was a memorable moment and a great thing that these boys were confirmed in front of their parents and their friends.

I was away this week at the Choir Schools Association Conference, which was held at Windsor. As I am sure you all know from having watched the funerals of The Duke of Edinburgh and The Late Queen, St George's Chapel is at the heart of Windsor Castle and has a very fine choir. It was a great pleasure to visit again, that wonderful chapel built by King Edward IV in the 15th Century, as a fitting place of worship for the Castle and as a chapel for the most important order of chivalry, the Order of the Garter. We were shown around the chapel in the evening when it was empty, and it was the first time I had been there since the burial of Her Late Majesty. The chapel in which she, The Duke of Edinburgh, and her parents, George VI and Queen Elizabeth are buried, is strikingly modest – a simple stone marking the grave. The light in the chapel was exquisite – a moment that none of the people who were there will probably forget.

The Conference was extremely productive. We had a most interesting talk about the transformative nature of AI and the speed with which it has advanced recently. The opportunities that AI provides for the world of education are extraordinary. It is now so sophisticated that it can even allow classes to interview historic or fictional figures, by using the internet to understand the nature of what such a person might have thought, what they would have looked like and how they might have spoken. It is immensely exciting. There are clearly two things that we must understand, firstly how education will be positively reshaped by the extraordinary power of AI, and, secondly, how we avoid becoming servants to the machines and in doing so, become completely emasculated – a much more far-reaching emasculation than our servitude to the sat nav which has removed many people's abilities to navigate for themselves. We will have to find a way to ensure that children, and indeed adults, retain the ability to think in the face of machines which will be able to do thinking rather more effectively than we can.

During half term, I will be going with the Worcester Choir to York. I told the School that the choir was going to sing in the Minster, a building that could probably fit Worcester College Chapel ten times over and so the choir would have to sing with real energy to fill the vast spaces of that great building. In fact, I told the boys that it was the biggest mediaeval building in the country and that it had more mediaeval stained glass than any other building north of the Alps. I was speaking to the boys of Christ Church Cathedral School and should have known that it would not end there. A hand shot up! "Sir!" "Yes?" "Which then is the building which has most mediaeval windows south of the Alps?" There is no end to our pupils' thirst for knowledge. Sadly, I did not have that answer prepared but I have subsequently done the research and I have to now reveal that I was not quite accurate. I now know that York Minster has the largest collection of stained glass in Northern Europe with 128 windows, but the building with the most stained glass in the world is Chartres Cathedral which is, as I am certain a geographer will tell you, north of the Alps - with 167 windows. Having said this, the Great East Window at York is the largest expanse of mediaeval glass anywhere, whether north or south of the Alps! I realise now I need to check my sources more carefully before making any claims in front of the School!

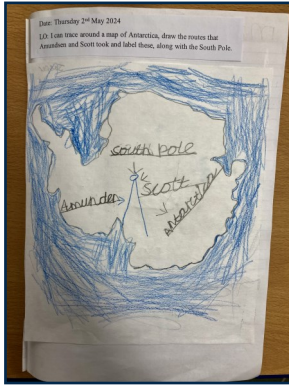
I hope you all have an excellent half term.

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

**Trinity 2024**  
**Monday 3rd - Sunday 9th June**

<p>MONDAY 3</p> <p>8.25</p> <p>3.30 - 4.30</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00</p>	<p><b>Second Half Begins</b></p> <p>CE Exams</p> <p>After School Chess Club (Form 2)</p> <p>After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 8)</p>
<p>TUESDAY 4</p> <p>9.30 - 11.00</p> <p>3.45 - 4.15</p> <p>4.00 - 4.45</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00</p>	<p>CE Exams</p> <p>Pre-Prep Stay &amp; Play</p> <p>Cardinal Scholars Visit: The PAINTED ROOM</p> <p>After School Mandarin Club (Forms 3 - 6)</p> <p>After School Summer Sports Club (Forms 1 - 3)</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY 5</p> <p>12.45 - 2.45</p> <p>2.30</p> <p>2.30</p> <p>3.30 - 4.15</p> <p>3.55 - 4.45</p>	<p>CE Exams &amp; School Exams</p> <p>Forms 3 &amp; 4 Swimming</p> <p>Forms 2 &amp; 3 Visit: The Story Museum</p> <p>Forms 5 &amp; 6 Cricket v New College</p> <p>Forms 7 &amp; 8 Cricket v New College</p> <p>After School Mandarin Club (Reception - Form 2)</p> <p>After School Chess Club (Forms 3 &amp; 4)</p>
<p>THURSDAY 6</p> <p>9.45 - 2.15</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00</p>	<p>CE Exams &amp; School Exams</p> <p>Reception &amp; Form 1 Visit: Rectory Farm</p> <p>After School Rugby Club (Forms 3 - 8)</p>
<p>FRIDAY 7</p> <p>8.30</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00</p>	<p>CE Exams &amp; School Exams</p> <p>Cathedral Assembly, speaker The Revd Canon Professor Graham Ward, Regius Professor of Divinity</p> <p>After School Cricket Club (Forms 3 - 8)</p> <p>After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 &amp; 8)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CC: OUT</p>
<p>SATURDAY 8</p>	<p><i>Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Nonjuror, Hymn Writer, 1711</i></p>
<p>SUNDAY 9</p>	<p><i>The Second Sunday after Trinity</i></p> <p><i>University Eighth Week</i></p>

## Form 2 News



This term, our topic has been Scott's expedition to the South Pole. The children have learnt about Scott's journey, all the way from his first expedition to Antarctica, to his tragic end, coming back from the South Pole. In addition, we briefly explored the expeditions of Amundsen and Shackleton.

Using tracing paper, we carefully mapped out Scott's and Amundsen's journeys, colouring blue to show the sea but not the icy land.

We were lucky enough to receive a visit from someone who actually went to Antarctica, as part of his job in sustainability. Our visitor taught us all about the different animals in Antarctica and we had a quiz on recognising all the different penguins. Following this, the children made fantastic fact files on an animal of their choice from Antarctica, as their homework.

We had a think about what we might need to take with us on a trip to the South Pole. Some ideas included "a warm, thick coat", "hiking gear", "tinned food", "hammer, axe and screws" and a "toothbrush and toothpaste"!

Once the children knew about Scott's journey, we read some of his diary entries to get an idea of what he really experienced. This complemented our diary writing in English, so we got our thinking caps on, writing as if we were Scott on his expedition. The children wrote brilliantly and some extracts below show just how hard they worked on these diary entries:

"When we arrived, it was freezing cold brrrr!"

"When I got there I saw lots of penguins and it was frosty. There it was, like nothing I'd seen before!"

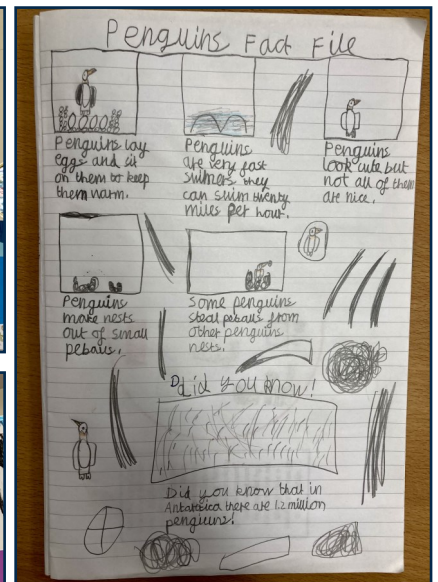
"A few weeks later a postcard arrived but what a shock, Amundsen was going to the South Pole! I must have been mad to go to the South Pole! But what choice did I have."

"It was very far and very cold being out in the open because the wind made it so cold that I didn't think me or my team could manage the trip back to base-camp. The ice made it so slippery and dangerous while the thick snow made it difficult to walk."

We experimented with different materials to make collages as backgrounds for our penguin art, including wrapping paper, felt, tissue paper and card. We also used oil pastels in our Art lessons with Mrs Elias, to design Antarctic penguin scenes.

We looked at different relics from the expedition and guessed what they might have been used for. We all had our own ideas. For example, a pair of goggles were guessed correctly, but were also suggested as being used as a wallet, name tag or gloves.

To finish off our topic, we considered how we should remember Scott and whether we should keep exploring today. We made suggestions about memorials, continuing Scott's research, and learning about the Terra Nova expedition. Ultimately, we decided that we should keep exploring so that we could continue learning, both about the past and about things we do not yet know. MH-W



## Mystery Visitors

This term in Prep-Prep, we have started inviting 'Mystery Visitors'. The idea behind this is to have parents come in, secretly, to surprise the children, either to read to them, or to give them a little talk on a topic. We are so thankful to all the parents who have put themselves forward for this and the children have thoroughly enjoyed the visits so far.

We firstly had Kabira Kapoor visit Key Stage 1 to talk about education in Papua New Guinea. We learnt about just how different it is to go to school there. You might not know that in Papua New Guinea, the average 6 year-old commutes to school for 40 minutes all by themselves! We saw pictures Kabira took that showed how classrooms look and compared them to ours.

Secondly, we had Lidia Viyella come in to surprise the children. Lidia's son is in Reception and his face when his Mummy walked in was priceless! He had no idea. All of Pre-Prep thoroughly enjoyed Lidia's story reading, especially 'Winnie the Witch'.

Most recently, we had Yang Tao visit Key Stage 1 to share information on how food affects the brain. For example, protein can be good for the brain but it depends - lean meat like chicken is much better than processed meat like sausages. Yang then challenged us to consider how many cubes of sugar are in a can of coke. We guessed almost perfectly!

Thank you to everyone and we look forward to listening and learning from more of our fantastic parents. MH-W



## Woodland School News

When we arrived at the Woodland School this week, we discovered that the dens which the children had successfully built together last week had fallen down. This gave me the opportunity to set a new challenge to the children in Forms 1 and 2 - which was to work as a team to construct a base camp. I hope that you would agree the children rose to the challenge! MM



## Pre-Prep News

In Pre-Prep this term, the children have been positively spoilt for choice in terms of enrichment activities going on. Thank you so much to our incredible Pre-Prep parents, who have supported us brilliantly by giving up their time to come in and read stories to the children, and to deliver fascinating talks on interesting jobs and hobbies.

We have also launched a number of new Pre-Prep Clubs this term, which have gone down very well indeed with the children. From Ms Merriman's and Mrs Balu's Life Skills and Gardening Clubs, to Mrs Roope's Mandarin Club, to Miss H-W's Drama Club, there has not been an idle moment, and everyone has had lots of fun and learnt valuable new skills.

In my previous life, I worked for eight years for a film school at Ealing Studios in London, so I thought I might have a go at starting a Pre-Prep Film Club. The children have been taught about film appreciation and how we can rate and evaluate different types of short films from around the world. I can honestly say that from the moment the children came into the 'cinema', complete with proper film theatre tickets, we had an absolute ball! We have watched short films with different themes and styles from countries like Japan, Germany, France and Tanzania. The children have learnt how to work as a team to talk about what they liked and didn't like about the films, and we have had Film Club votes on Star Ratings. Whilst there were several favourite films across the term, when I asked the children what they had enjoyed most, they answered, "Eating popcorn, Mr Robards!" Quite right too... TR



## Making the Most of Oxford Club

This week, we visited the very fine shop on the High Street, Ede & Ravenscroft, who hold the Royal Warrant as suppliers of robes to The King. We however, went to find out about academic gowns.

We learned that 'freshers', or new undergraduates, have the shortest gowns and need a mortar board and white bow tie. As a student gains qualifications, the gowns become longer, fancier and more expensive! KS



## D.T. Corner



## Music News



Boys in the Prep School gave an astonishing display of musicality at this year's House Music Competition, with terrific hard work from every single Form. House Singing rehearsals have been an especially competitive affair this year, with the Form 8 teams taking contrasting approaches to their rehearsals in the final week. Carroll used a cerebral method under maestro William K, theorising suitable harmonies for 'The Wellerman'; Wolsey crafted clever canons in 'Shenandoah', directed by a business-like Will S; and Sayers threw themselves into 'The Last Shanty' under conductor Martin, who displayed levels of energy and dynamism normally only seen at a Taylor Swift concert.

I have enjoyed working with the boys immensely this term, and more than 200 individual auditions ensured that House totals were very close going into the final. It was excellent to hear such nuanced feedback from adjudicator Sarah Baldock, Director of Music at Winchester College. Sarah gave us the excellent news that two CCCS alumni have won two of the College's most prestigious musical prizes this year: the Bach Prize and Concerto Competition. I am very proud of the current crop of CCCS pupils for continuing their fantastic musical work in this year's outstanding House Music. Bravi tutti! SB

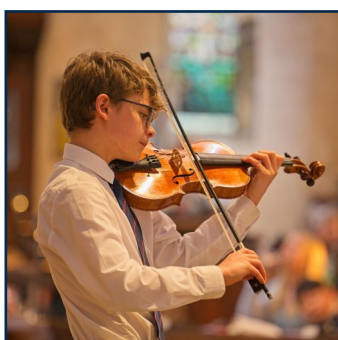
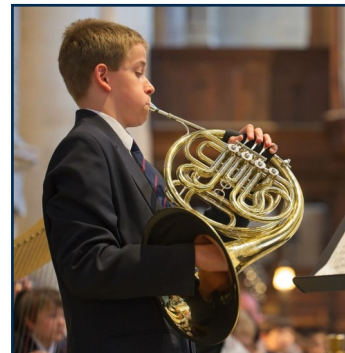
**Junior Instrumental Class** - Winner: Alexander Sun / Runner-Up: Jaden Roope

**Intermediate Instrumental Class** - Winner: Leo Roope / Runner-Up: Patrick Daniels-Dwyer

**Senior Instrumental Class** - Winner: Martin Dancer / Runner-Up: William Kirkman

**Conductor's Prize** - William Kirkman, **Winner of House Singing** - Wolsey

**Overall Winning House** - Carroll





## More Music News...

We held a major musical Outreach event on Wednesday, hosting children from a number of West London primary schools for a workshop in school.

The children learned about the Cathedral Choristers' lives and heard four of them singing, with two memorable solos from Martin and Will S.

We did some technical work together before rehearsing four different songs, which were later performed in the Cathedral.

This is our final Outreach event of the year, and CCCS has reached a large number of pupils and teachers through a combination of in-person workshops, performances and recorded materials.

I am very grateful to the Cathedral Choristers for their hard work at every single session. SB



## Nursery News

Nursery children continue to be fascinated and absorbed by the process of planting seeds. We began by counting the number of seeds in a packet using five and ten frames. The children have all become proficient at planting seeds individually and watching the seedlings grow in their pots, thanks to the diligent watering of the youngest children.

Last Friday, Reception and Nursery donned pyjamas to join in with the national 'Pyjamarama' fundraiser for the Book Trust, to raise money to buy books for children who do not have bedtime stories. We had some fabulous stories from parents and Prep staff, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the celebration of stories. HB



## Gardening News

It appears that the boys in our Gardening Club do have green fingers. We added tomato plants to our crop this week.

Well done boys! MM

