



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 7th June 2024

Dear Parents,

What a week it has been! When we came back from half term, we knew that it would be a busy few days, what with Form 8 taking Common Entrance exams and other years in the Prep School taking internal exams. We knew that there were to be a number of trips for both Prep and Pre-Prep. But we had no idea that on Tuesday morning five inspectors from the Independent Schools Inspectorate would be arriving to spend three days looking at the School in minute detail, a process which, at the best of times, requires a huge degree of focus on the part of the School. The Inspectors worked with great professionalism and their report will arrive with us in about five weeks' time. As soon as it is ready, I will be sending it to you. Many of you answered the surveys. Those filled in by the parents were particularly positive, so I wanted to thank all of you who took the time to complete them and to be so supportive of the School. I also wanted to take the opportunity to thank the staff of the School who have been magnificent this week; they have worked so hard to be ready for the observed lessons, the scrutinised books and the questions posed to them. I have been so proud of the staff and the School during this process – though receiving inspections are not the way in which you would necessarily choose to spend your time, they do bring people together and everyone supported one another magnificently.

I had a lovely half term, some of which was spent with the Worcester Choristers in York. We travelled up to that magnificent and historical city in two minibuses and stayed at a Youth Hostel that had, at one time, been the home of members of the Rowntree family, the Quakers who had started up the famous chocolate (and fruit pastel) dynasty. We were in York to sing three services in one of the greatest buildings in the world and the largest mediaeval cathedral in the country, York Minster. I was sceptical as to whether the choir, which is used to singing in an intimate chapel, would be able to fill the vast spaces of the Minster with their sound. In fact, they all sang with complete commitment and the singing was hugely impressive. Half term in York was busy and as I walked out to take my place for the service, I noticed a huge queue of people waiting to find a place. After one of the services, when the public had left the building and we had it all to ourselves, we went through to the Chapter House, one of the wonders of England. It is an octagonal room under the most spectacular roof - a roof which seems to radiate with colour like a firework. But as remarkable as that is, the Chapter House's most extraordinary feature is entirely invisible - its acoustic. The boys stood in the middle of the building and sang from memory, Edward Elgar's "Ave Verum." The noise was dramatic and went straight to the heart. As they opened their mouths and heard the sound which they had suddenly produced, the boys' mouths gaped in amazement.

We have written to you today about Sports Day. I am very much looking forward to seeing you all there next Saturday. The boys and girls are very excited. Last year, we introduced some parent and family races – these were probably the most competitively contested of all the races. I am certain that the weather will be good – it has been every year I have attended, except for one where, following a pleasant start, the clouds gathered and then the lightning struck. It was not a good moment to be on an exposed field with 150 children and their families. Something tells me it will be pleasant this year!

I was showing one of the Inspectors around the School – as we came round a corner one boy who was passing us leapt backwards. At first the Inspector looked slightly shocked and hurt that someone would recoil so abruptly from their presence. But all was revealed in an instant. The boy grabbed the door and held it open as we passed through. No wonder the Inspectors commented upon how polite our boys are.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Trinity 2024
Monday 10th - Sunday 16th June

MONDAY 10	<p>School Exams</p> <p>Form 8 Expeditions Week</p> <p>3.30 - 4.30 After School Chess Club (Form 2)</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00 After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 8)</p>
TUESDAY 11	<p><i>Barnabas the Apostle</i></p> <p>Form 8 Expeditions Week</p> <p>4.00 - 4.45 After School Mandarin Club (Forms 3 - 6)</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00 After School Summer Sports Club (Forms 1 - 3)</p> <p>4.30 - 6.30 Pre-Prep Parents' Evening (SchoolCloud)</p>
WEDNESDAY 12	<p>Forms 3 & 4 Swimming</p> <p>Form 8 Expeditions Week</p> <p>3.30 - 4.15 After School Mandarin Club (Reception - Form 2)</p> <p>3.55 - 4.45 After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)</p>
THURSDAY 13	<p>Form 8 Expeditions Week</p> <p>1.40 Forms 5 & 6 Visit: Oxford Playhouse - The 39 Steps</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00 After School Rugby Club (Forms 3 - 8)</p> <p>6.00 - 7.00 Forms 5 - 7 Normandy Trip Information Evening (WWH)</p>
FRIDAY 14	<p>Moving Up Day</p> <p>Form 8 Expeditions Day</p> <p>8.30 Cathedral Assembly, speaker Ms Elizabeth Stone, Headmaster, Winchester College</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00 After School Cricket Club (Forms 3 - 8)</p> <p>4.10 - 5.00 After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CE RESULTS CC: IN</p>
SATURDAY 15	<p><i>University Full term Ends</i></p> <p>Sports Day</p> <p>Old Boys' Cricket Match</p>
SUNDAY 16	<p><i>The Third Sunday after Trinity</i></p>

Music News

Worcester Choristers had a fantastic trip to York over half term, singing evensong services in the cavernous medieval Minster – attended by a congregation of hundreds every night – as well as a broadcast eucharist for the feast of Corpus Christi.

The boys also participated in a music workshop with primary school children in Pickering, deep in the beautiful rolling hills of rural Yorkshire, and helped them to learn a set of newly commissioned songs based on local myths and legends. The choristers sounded on terrific form, but also found time to fit in plenty of football, quizzing and ice cream alongside their hard musical work. They loved exploring the historic city, especially the Jorvik Museum (where they learnt about Viking battle tactics and handled some impressive weaponry!) The boys were superb ambassadors for the School and for Worcester, and I was immensely proud of them all. SB



Ensemble Performances in the Cathedral

Boys in our Senior Orchestra and String Quartet performed a selection of pieces to the whole school on the Friday before half term.

I'm very grateful to Mr and Mrs Wilson for their hard work with these ensembles.

It was a fantastic way to end the first part of term, and if you missed it you can listen to the Senior Orchestra's performance here:

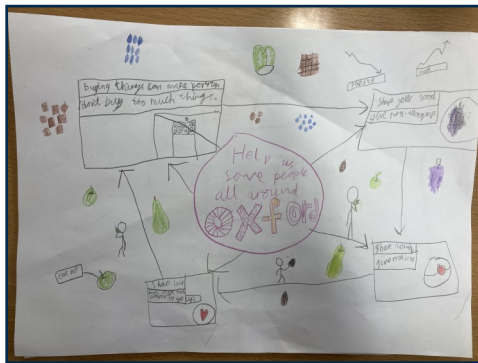
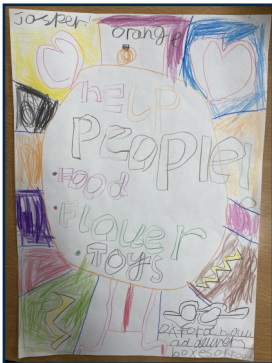
<https://youtu.be/8wnXYwUojZ4>. SB

Pre-Prep News

We recently had a visit from Oxford Mutual Aid (OMA), one of our school charities, who provide 170 households with regular food, toiletries, and baby supplies, and deliver nearly 100 emergency food parcels each week. Every month, OMA help out around 800 of our neighbours with essential items - they not only want to help people in poverty, they also work towards making sure that people don't end up in poverty in the first place.

The children had the chance to build their own food boxes and to practise delivering them to someone. We had to think carefully about the sorts of things that someone would need and want. Of course, fruit and vegetables are important but, as we learnt, it is also important for people to have access to things that we all like, such as crisps.

As I am sure you can imagine, Pre-Prep had lots of questions and more than anything, wanted to know how they could help. The good news is, we can! We have a big box in the Front Office for people to make food donations, which will directly help our neighbours. Donations must be store-cupboard foods, such as pasta, rice and soup. The children designed, then displayed, posters around school to help raise awareness of the issues, and the charity. The website for Oxford Mutual Aid welcomes volunteers and accepts donations. MHW



Form 5 News

Professor Bhagwat, one of our parents, came to visit our Geography lesson to talk to us about India's natural resources, farmed animals, food, and survival skills in the forest.

A huge thank you to Professor Bhagwat! EF



Form 6 are invited to bring in store-cupboard food items to place in the box just inside the Front Office door.

Thank you. LK

Acorns Theatre
Wolvercote village hall
5th - 9th of August 2024
Workshop 10am - 4pm
flexi drop off between 9am - 10am
flexi pick up between 4pm - 5pm

Book now!
acornstheatre@gmail.com
Contact katie on:
07717695995

Spend a fun packed week learning drama skills and confidence building. Make new friends and work towards a show to perform to family and friends at the end of the week!

Juniors age 5-9
Seniors age 10-14

Katie O'Connor
Director at
Acorns Theatre

CHARTERHOUSE

Prom in the Park.

Celebrating 10 years of our arts festival **Artifex**
Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto no 2
Bruch Violin Concerto no 1
Finzi Clarinet Concerto

Saturday 22nd June 2024

Free tickets, open to all
Bring a picnic, enjoy the glorious grounds and take in a midsummer's feast of music
The Artifex 'Wave' arena, Charterhouse

Running time: 90 minutes plus interval.
For our safeguarding and all other policies please refer to our website.
Tickets available from 10th May. Please follow the link to register.