



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 14th June 2024

Dear Parents,

What has happened to the weather? Our Summer seems to have eluded us and we only have three weeks of term to go. I am so very sorry that we have had to postpone our Sports Day but the forecast is such that it is almost inevitable that Merton Field will be extremely slippery tomorrow morning. There was a certain degree of irony in the fact that the moment the email announcing the postponement had been sent off, the sun burst out – and indeed it is shining now as I write, but the Games staff have returned from the field this afternoon telling me that it was hammering it down and that the ground is now very wet. Tuesday, on the other hand, is set to be fair so I very much hope that as many of you as possible will be able to be present, though I know that work will sadly mean that some of you will not be able to join us. There are many advantages to living in England, but reliable weather is not one of them.

One of the most exciting aspects of the day will be – and I did not expect that I would ever say this – the absence of a pavilion – our old pavilion has gone. This has only been made possible because the old pavilion will be replaced, imminently, by the new one. The area where it will be built has now been fenced off – another indication that dramatic things are about to occur. I will be in touch the moment I see earth moving. I look forward hugely to being able to celebrate the opening of the building with you in the very near future.

It was a great honour to have Ms Elizabeth Stone speaking to us in the Cathedral today. Ms Stone is the Headmaster of Winchester, the first woman to have held this role in the School's 650 year history. She is in her first year in that role so it was particularly kind of her to visit us. She showed us a photograph of an enormous stone circle with a hole in the middle, probably about the same height as a person, and asked us to identify what the circle was. As ever there were many ingenious suggestions put forward by the boys but it took surprisingly little time for someone to guess the right answer – money! This vast stone object was a piece of currency used on one of the Pacific Islands a long time ago. By society agreeing that this was money, it became precious, "Thinking made it so", to adapt some of Shakespeare's words. Ms Stone's point was that this is rare as normally, thinking does not make something happen but it's a good first step to take a position on something, but to make a thought or desire a reality, one needs to undertake a great deal of effort. It is through effort and hard work that achievements occur. This is something that it is worth us all remembering.

Oxford is of course, a beautiful city – indeed I think it has more mediaeval buildings than any other city in the country of comparable size. Oxford has a particularly lovely combination of buildings and gardens and, at this time of year, to walk around one of the Oxford colleges is one of the most exquisite experiences available as colourful flowers ornament beautiful Cotswold stone walls. However, this comes at a price - traffic - and in its wake, traffic reduction measures. We are very aware that the Council will be introducing traffic filters or bus gates, as they are more commonly known, in the late Autumn. I know that many of you already come to School by bike or on foot. Nonetheless for some of you, these are not options. I will be in touch with you next week about the bus routes we will be operating next academic year, to help you to navigate the new, more complex, transport world of Oxford City.

As ever, lunchtimes have provided me with much excellent conversation this week. "Sir!" I was asked with great enthusiasm, "Which is your favourite battle?" It's not the sort of question, I have to confess, that I ask myself every day. But then I'm not a military historian. I suspect that one of the school's pupils might become one - if he is not already!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Trinity 2024
Monday 17th - Sunday 23rd June

MONDAY 17	<i>Alban, first Martyr of Britain</i>
All Day	Trinity Music Exams (WWH)
11.00 - 12.00	Forms 1 & 2 Visit: Harcourt Arboretum
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 8)
TUESDAY 18	
10.30 - 11.30	Pre-Prep Sports Day
1.00 - 4.00	Prep School Sports Day
4.00 - 4.45	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 3 - 6)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Summer Sports Club (Forms 1 - 3)
	EXAM RESULTS
WEDNESDAY 19	
	Forms 3 & 4 Residential: Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre (Depart)
2.30 - 5.00	U10 & U11 Cricket v Chandlings (Away)
3.30 - 4.15	After School Mandarin Club (Reception - Form 2)
3.55 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
THURSDAY 20	
4.10 - 5.00	After School Rugby Club (Forms 3 - 8)
FRIDAY 21	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, including Nursery and Pre-Prep, speaker The Headmaster
All Day	Forms 5 - 7 Visit: Tower of London
	Forms 3 & 4 Residential: Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre (Return)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Cricket Club (Forms 3 - 8)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 & 8)
SATURDAY 22	
SUNDAY 23	<i>The Fourth Sunday after Trinity</i>



Forms 4 - 8 Flexi-Boarding

Bookings for Flexi-Boarding next term are now open.

If you would like your son to join our boarding community next term, please email registrar@cccs.org.uk



Oxford Mutual Aid Food Donations

We continue to welcome any donations of food and essentials from Prep and Pre-Prep. Please feel free to leave donations in the crate in the front office.

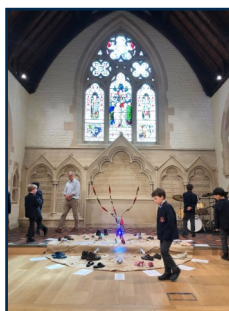
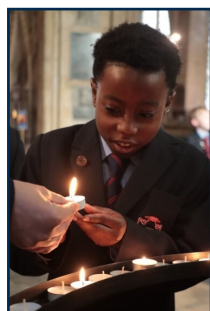
We thank you so much for your donations.

Form 3 News

As part of Form 3's Religious Studies this term, we have been exploring some of the differences between various denominations within Christianity.

Before half term, we had a wonderful tour of Christ Church Cathedral from our Chaplain, where we explored, and learned about, the different features, including the altar, pulpit and the shrine of St Frideswide.

Last Friday, we visited St Ebbe's Church, which was very beautiful in a simplistic way. This church had chairs, rather than pews, and a wooden table for the altar - it even had a keyboard and a drum kit instead of an organ. We were also very lucky to see an Art exhibition whilst we were there. One of the exhibits showed a number of shoes given by Christians from all around the world, standing together around a 'burning bush' made from steel. The text accompanying each pair of shoes explained where their owners lived and what it meant for them to be a believer. We were excited to learn that one pair of trainers used to belong to Haile Gebrselassie, former long-distance Ethiopian athlete and Olympic gold medalist! HB



OXUS

AN HOUR OF STRING QUARTET MUSIC AT TWILIGHT
BY PURCELL, SCHUBERT, MAX RICHTER & MORE

SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2024
AT 9.00 PM

LIGHT AND DARK

1st Violinist, Mrs Wilson. Cellist, Mr Wilson

All Saints' Church, Headington, OX3 7AF
£14.00, £4.00 (under-25s)

www.bookthatin.com/book/oxus and on the door

Chess News

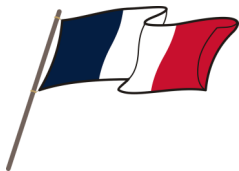
At the Fossil Festival in Dorset last weekend, Qiheng joined the Delancey UK Schools Chess Championship Mega Final.

Mr Dodds, who runs CCCS After School Chess Club has imbued in Qiheng a great love for the game!

Qiheng will be representing CCCS at the regional Giga Finals in July. LK

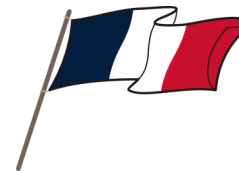


Trips News



Dates: 7th -11th July 2025

Price: Approximately £650



Pupils: Open to boys in Forms 5, 6 and 7

We are delighted to be launching a full immersion trip to Normandy, France, next July. We will be staying at La Grand'Ferme, which is situated in the village of Le Fougeray, between Granville and Avranches, just 2km from the coast. This is the third time our school will have stayed there and this time, our boys will be spending one day in the centre itself.

All activities, visits and tours will be led in French. The boys will be encouraged to speak French at all times, even during meal times.

Please contact schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk if you would like to book a place for your son on this trip. A non-refundable deposit of £80 will then be added to your school invoice. SL

Forms 4 - 7 Ski Trip 2025 Reminder

Deadline for deposits is this Monday at 8.00 am.

Thank you. SL

Form 1 News



With hushed rumours of the 'juiciest strawberries in Oxford' and the 'finest ice cream money can buy' swirling around the school minibus, Form 1 set off for our highly anticipated day trip to Rectory Farm. On arrival, we were welcomed by our guide, Imogen, fresh from her celebrity appearances in the recent McCain's Chips adverts on television. Imogen told us all about where Rectory Farm's fruit and vegetable produce ends up, from McDonald's to Warburton's, to Mr Kilby's Kitchen at Christ Church Cathedral School!

We were treated to a tour of the fields of crops, from gigantic spiky artichokes, to rows of bright purple rhubarb with poisonous leaves, through hundreds of rows of beans and sweetcorn, and finally, to the tunnels that housed The Holy Grail of scrumptious, juicy strawberries! Imogen taught the pupils how to pick the fruit very carefully. When the punnets were full to overflowing, with yet more ending up in hungry mouths, they were checked on the packing line for 'shop quality'.

I am delighted and proud to report that the pupils of CCCS received unanimous scores of 10/10 from the Rectory Farm picking team! Is there no limit to the talents of our pupils? TR



K-pop Concert at the Sheldonian Theatre

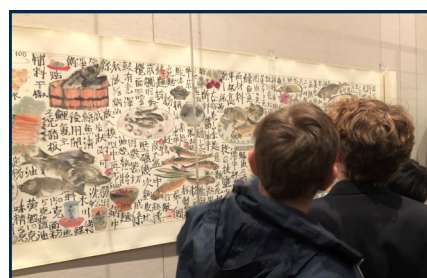
I'm delighted to be able to invite parents and pupils to a completely unique concert taking place in the Sheldonian Theatre on 4th July (6.00 -8.00 pm). The University of Oxford will be hosting Kim Hyung-Suk - known as the Godfather of K-pop, and of the supergroup BTS - in a K-pop extravaganza, featuring singing and discussion as well as a mystery guest artist performing hit songs. He will also perform a piece featuring one of our own Cathedral Choristers, Martin in Form 8, in a wonderful collaboration between musicians from very different backgrounds. This marks the first time an Asian pop artist will perform in the Sheldonian, and I am very proud that CCCS musicians can be part of such a special, cross-cultural event. If you would like to read more information please click here: <https://www.ames.ox.ac.uk/event/k-pop-godfather-k-pop-and-bts>

The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies has very generously offered free tickets for children, parents and staff from CCCS for this event. Please would you let the school office know if you would like to attend, by Friday 21st June. SB



Making the Most of Oxford Club

This week we visited the Ashmolean to look at 'Simple Pleasures', an exhibition by the Chinese artist Li Jin and the British caricaturist, Roger Law. We enjoyed it very much.



Li Jin is known for his colourful depictions of sensory pleasures and we particularly liked some of his elaborate pictures of food and feasts. KS

The Painted Room

On Tuesday, the Cardinal Scholars, plus three scholarly Form 7s, visited the Painted Room at Number 3 in the Corn to be shown the Painted Room by Louise Lockyer of the Oxford Preservation Trust. For a long stretch of the Middle Ages, Number 3 was an inn; and behind its ordinary façade a stairway leads past a dingy betting shop up to a wonderful mediaeval chamber. In the 20th Century this space was the office of the Oxford Preservation Trust, where Betjeman, as secretary, furthered the worthy fight against architectural vandalism in the city. The wall paintings (a floral medley entwined within interlocking curved strapwork) was discovered in 1927 beneath wallpaper and wood panels.

Shakespeare almost certainly stayed at the inn – perhaps slept in the Painted Room – for he was friends with the innkeeper, John Davenant, and his wife Jane, whose son, William, was Shakespeare's godson. William (who wrote plays) even claimed in his cups that he was actually Shakespeare's son.

We are very grateful to Louise Lockyer and the OPT for opening up the room for us and giving us an informative talk. NR

