



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 28th June 2024

Dear Parents,

Earlier this week, during an Assembly, Mr Richards gave us an overview of the entries that he had received for the Greek and Roman Myths Competition. The idea was for pupils to submit any form of illustration of a myth. We had poems written, which both scanned and rhymed, we had videos with a narrator; we had cartoon strips, we had posters. The sheer variety of ways of presenting these old stories was glorious and it was clear that the myths' power to delight and intrigue, thousands of years after they had been written, was undiminished. Knowledge about myths in this school is very striking. These are certainly not dead stories but ones which continue to animate and delight. In the end, the winners were a poem of remarkable linguistic subtlety about the Minotaur's thoughts about his demise, by Cosme; a beautiful pomegranate with exquisitely executed designs, illustrating the story of Demeter and Persephone, by Robin; and an entertaining, colourful Icarus Rap, by Adam, which ended with the illuminating stanza:

*And though the poor boy sadly burned  
And the ending's very sad,  
There's just one moral to be learned:  
LISTEN TO YOUR DAD!!*

Meanwhile, over the past few days, the Walton Hall has been turned into an Art gallery, covered from floor to ceiling with work done by our pupils over the course of this year. I very much hope that you have all taken the opportunity to visit the exhibition during the course of this afternoon and that if you haven't been able to, you will pop in next week when the exhibition will continue to be displayed. The centrepiece is a remarkable mosaic of the Christ Church arms which was completed earlier this term by all the pupils. I had the pleasure of adding a few of the tiles but this was before the mosaic was completed, so I haven't yet seen the finished piece. As I write, it is covered by a sheet, which will be removed this afternoon. I can't wait to see our mosaic when it is unveiled. I am very conscious of the time that Mrs Elias has taken to mount this wonderful exhibition and wish to thank her for doing so. Do come!

And, of course, today, after a great deal of work, we will be treated to a performance of the School Summer Play, which is *The Tempest*. The play was one of Shakespeare's very last and many who know his plays well, consider it to be one of his finest, full of poetry and warmth. At the end, Prospero, the main character, who has been using his recently acquired magical skills to control all those around him, decides that he must give up his magical powers and allow those around him to pursue their own destinies and to take responsibility for themselves. Many have seen this as Shakespeare coming to terms with the fact that he was nearing the end of his career, nearing the end of his ability to forge plays in which he was able to control all his creations. Prospero breaks his magic staff and burns his magic books. He then releases all those people he has held in thrall. Referring to those he has held in thrall, he speaks words of great importance - but of complete simplicity: "My charms I'll break, their senses I'll restore, And they shall be themselves."

For me, as a teacher, this time of year is a very moving one. Having looked after a group of young men, some of whom have been here for ten years, we have to release them into the world in order for them to be themselves. These words of Prospero's have a particular resonance. But of course, as Prospero realised, the most powerful thing of all is to give people the space to become themselves – the ultimate vocation of all teachers and, indeed, of all parents. There is nothing more magical than a performance of a magical play in an outdoor setting at this time of year and, again, I hope that all of you will read this letter having enjoyed our performance. Thank you Ms Skipwith for all your efforts in having brought it all together.

The General Election gets ever nearer – this time next week we will know the outcome. Our news has been dominated by the coming election for the past few weeks to the exclusion of much else, and, for those of us who have followed British elections avidly for a number of decades, this election will be one of the most fascinating in terms of the changes and shifts which it will bring. Another perspective on the election was expressed by one of our pupils recently. He had heard that a situation which has made life temporarily difficult for his family was "All about politics." "Hmm," he responded, dismissively, "Who invented politics!" I'm sure there are many of us asking the same question.

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

**Trinity 2024**  
**Monday 1st - Sunday 7th July**

MONDAY 1	
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 8)
TUESDAY 2	
2.00 - 4.00	Enterprise Day (Merton Field)
4.00 - 4.45	After School Mandarin Club (Forms 3 - 6)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Summer Sports Club (Forms 1 - 3)
WEDNESDAY 3	
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
3.30 - 4.15	After School Mandarin Club (Reception - Form 2)
3.55 - 4.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
THURSDAY 4	
FRIDAY 5	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker: The Chaplain
9.30 - 10.00	Form 8 Assembly (WWH)
1.15 - 1.45	Pre-Prep Speech Day and Prize Giving (Cathedral)
2.00 - 2.45	Leavers' Concert (Cathedral)
3.00 - 4.15	Speech Day and Prize Giving (Cathedral)
4.15 - 6.00	Form 8 Leavers' Tea (Merton Field)
4.10 - 5.00	<b>No After School Mandarin Club (Forms 7 &amp; 8)</b>
SATURDAY 6	
SUNDAY 7	

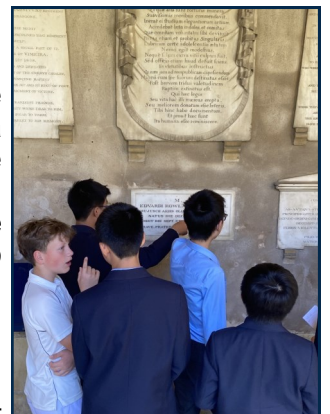
**There will be no After School Care or Prep on Friday 5th July.**

**The minibus will not be running in the afternoon on Friday 5th July.**

### Epitaph Study



Form 7 visited the Cathedral to see how much of the many Latin epitaphs they could translate. Quite a number, we are glad to report, as the lapidary formulae – Memoriae Sacrum, HSE, Hic Jacet, natus LX ann., amici moerentes p c etc. – fell before their pencils. One ambitious team even translated an English epitaph into Latin.



In the cloister we saw the sad memorial to William Gaisford, son of the Dean, who drowned with his friend at Sandford Lock, and in the Cathedral the monument to George Berkely, the bishop philosopher, near which we take our pews on Friday. 'It was there because we saw it.' NR

## Tower of London Visit

Last Friday, Forms 5, 6 and 7 boys went to the Tower of London to learn more about this iconic monument. The boys really enjoyed their workshop, learning more about the fortress-prison-palace. Hopefully they won't feel like replicating the 500-year-old carvings/graffiti from political prisoners, at home!

We saw some very impressive medieval armour and weaponry from around the world, which was on display in the White Tower.

It was a very hot day - the traffic wasn't too kind to us either but we all felt it was a very positive visit. SL



## Form 3 News

As part of our Religious Studies this term, Form 3 have been learning about religious festivals and cultural holidays celebrated around the world. We were very lucky to welcome two of our parents to talk to the class about holidays they celebrate with their own family.

Dr Kim spoke to the class about Korean festivals; 'Seollal' (Korean New Year) and 'Chuseok', also known as Korean Thanksgiving, where Koreans celebrate the autumn harvest and honour their ancestors.

Mrs Zu came to talk to the children about the Dragon Boat Festival, which is a traditional Chinese holiday celebrated on the 5th day of the 5th month of the Chinese lunar calendar. The festival is celebrated to commemorate Qu Yuan, a famous scholar in ancient China.

Thank you to both Dr Kim and Mrs Zu for your time and for sharing these exciting holidays with Form 3.  
HB



## Myth Competition

Congratulations to the boys for producing excellent entries for the Myth Competition. We had pictures, playscripts, film and models featuring Zeus, Artemis, Heracles, Atalanta, Marsyas, the Minotaur, Romulus and Remus, a script and a YouTube video correcting the multitudinous inaccuracies in mythology in the media.

The winners were: Cosme (Form 7) for a video poem set in a maze from the viewpoint of the Minotaur; Robin (Form 6) for an exquisite model of a pomegranate, telling the story of Demeter and Persephone; Adam (Form 5) for a rap on the sad tale of Icarus.

Mentioned in despatches: a superbly illustrated panel on Heracles by Patrick (Form 4) and a most entertaining verse telling of the tale of Arachne by Matthew (Form 6). NR



Mingzi (Form 6)



Robin (Form 6)

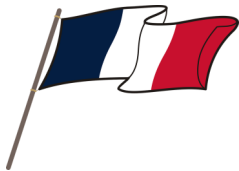


Périclès (Form 4)



Patrick (Form 6)

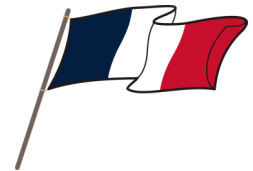
## Only a Few Places Left...



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.

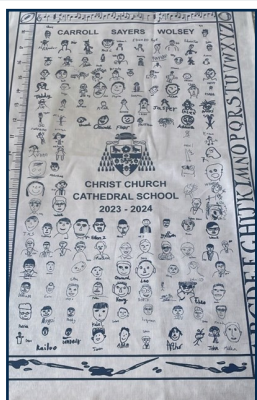
Please contact [schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk) if you would like to book a place for your son on this trip. A non-refundable deposit of £80 will then be added to your school invoice. SL

## CCCS Tea Towels

CCCS Tea Towels are now available from the CCCSPA. You can buy a tea towel at the cost of £8 or two for £15. However, we do have a limited supply, so if you would like to secure your tea towel in advance, please visit:

<https://pay.collectiv.com/christ-church-cathedral-school-tea-towel-23-24-84940>.

Please use THE MESSAGE BOX to add your child's full name AND Form (for school bag delivery). Proceeds from sales will go towards Pre-Prep aprons and After School Care toys; anything left over will go towards the new School Library.



## Forms 3 and 4 Oxenwood Trip

"When I went to Oxenwood it felt like going to another country. The food was lovely, all the staff were kind and it was more peaceful than the city." **Alex T**

"I liked all the activities but I especially enjoyed water sports, archery and the walk to spooky alley, because I had a torch and a bottle so I could make ghostly clinking noises with them." **Jaden**

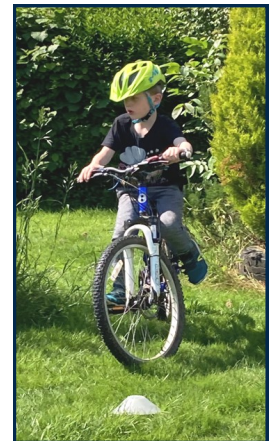
"Oxenwood was the first time I ever tried long hikes, canoeing, kayaking and mountain biking. I had great nights with my friends in the comfy dorm." **Edward**

"I loved climbing and I loved cycling. I loved everything!" **Raphael**

"The food was marvellous especially the pizza! I loved going on the canoe and paddling it." **Périclès**

"They did archery and I have never done it so it was really an experience." **Ntiamoah**

"It was by far the best trip I have had in my life! I loved the meals and activities and lovely rooms. I absolutely loved very single second of my time there." **Edwin**



## Nursery News

It has been fabulous to see the older children taking on more responsibility in the classroom during the past two weeks - arranging flowers and changing the water in the vases have been popular jobs to do.

While other classes in school have been enjoying extracurricular activities, some of the Nursery children have been mastering Maths and Language games. Just look at the number line!

We chose a different snack than usual this week, helping us develop new skills and build independence. Yes, the children have loved peeling carrots and cutting them with a wavy cutter.

Nursery children are waiting expectantly to see the Art Exhibition this week and while we have been waiting, we have added another layer to a painting for the wall in our classroom. HB



## 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](mailto:registrar@cccs.org.uk)

## 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