



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Parents,

I have always loved Christ Church Meadow but I am taking particular pleasure in my recent visits to it. At the end of last term there was a hole in the place where the old pavilion stood, whereas now, only a mere eight weeks later, there stands a substantial building. I remember seeing the first drawings appear from the architect's pen, many years ago. We wanted to provide a generous-sized space in which to entertain, a kitchen, decent storage space and changing rooms – all in a building which would be a modern take on a traditional pavilion. It was wonderful to watch the design evolve, the architect fulfilling our brief brilliantly. Our choice to go with a pre-fabricated building, where the parts of the building have been constructed elsewhere and then brought to the site to be fitted together, has ensured that once the building was started, progress has been rapid. It has also meant that the impact on the site itself has been minimal – far less than if everything had been being constructed here. The latest indications are that the Pavilion will be completed by mid October. We will be in touch very soon about the exact date for our celebratory drinks.

I mentioned to the boys on the first day of term that I had discovered an app called Merlin. One of the boys was able to tell me that, rather than being an app connected with Arthurian legends, it was one which was able to listen to, and then identify, birdsong. Lay your phone out in the garden, set the app up and it will tell you which birds are singing around you. I told the boys that the moment I switched it on, I started hearing all the individual bird calls - not that I, unlike the app, was able to identify them. This tiny electronic picture of a bird sitting on my phone, enabled me to listen to the world in a much more sensitive way – and indeed I would recommend you try the app both for its ability to help you identify birdsong as well as for the way in which it prompts you to listen. Indeed, I think it is so important that the pupils be encouraged to notice everything around them. The ability to appreciate the beauty of the world is one of the most important and life-affirming abilities, and part of my focus this year is to encourage the pupils to take a Merlin approach to the world. No day should ever pass without our pupils noticing something new, and given the wonderful variety of trees available to us in our Woodland School, it has been suggested that we should load up the app onto our new school iPads and teach our pupils to have Merlin ears!

I never fail to marvel at the interest which our pupils take in almost any subject. We will soon be appointing a Head Boy, a Deputy Head Boy and various other school officers. One of the boys asked whether the pupils would be allowed to vote upon the matter, a most interesting suggestion. But of course this is Christ Church Cathedral School and so it didn't end there. The next ten minutes were taken up with a debate about what the best voting system should be for this process - should it be decided upon by a first past the post system, or should it be decided upon by proportional representation, or indeed (like the USA Presidential election) a college of Form representatives? The pros and cons of the various systems were discussed in detail. And all I had expected when I went into the hall was a quiet lunch... How naïve of me. I should know by now that that's never going to happen. And of course, I will now have to think carefully about the democratisation of the Head Boy selection process and, if we do decide to adopt this scheme, what sort of voting system would be introduced...

For pupils and staff, the beginning of term is always a dramatic shift of gear. One of the most heartening conversations was with a boy who was returning to school. The boy's mother said how quickly she thought that the summer holiday had swept by. I sagely agreed. "That's true," said the boy, "but it doesn't matter because we have an even more exciting school to come back to!" Quite!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2024

Monday 9th - Sunday 15th September

MONDAY 9	Form 8 CAT 4 Tests
8.15 - 4.10	Form 6 Trip: Youlbury Scout Camp
TUESDAY 10	Form 7 CAT 4 Tests
8.45 - 4.10	Form 5 Trip: Youlbury Scout Camp
WEDNESDAY 11	Form 6 CAT 4 Tests
8.00 - 4.00	Forms 3 & 4 Trip: Legoland
8.45 - 9.30	Coffee for Pre-Prep Parents
3.30 - 4.15	Rec - Form 2 After School Mandarin Club
THURSDAY 12	Form 5 CAT 4 Tests
8.15 - 4.10	Form 7 Trip: Youlbury Scout Camp
4.10 - 5.00	Pre-Prep After School Rugby/Multi Skills Club (Merton Field/WWH)
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 6 - 8 After School Mandarin Club (Form 4 Classroom)
FRIDAY 13	Forms 6-7 ISEB Pre-tests
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker: the Chaplain
5.30 - 7.30	Staff and Prep School Parents' Meeting (WWH)
SATURDAY 14	<i>Holy Cross Day</i>
SUNDAY 15	<i>The Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity</i>



Ancient Greek Music from an Old Boy

On the penultimate day of last term, Form 7 was given a talk about ancient Greek music by a quondam chorister here, Alexander Winnifrith, who is now in his final year at Winchester College. Alexander told us about ancient instruments such as the diavlos (double flute), the lyre and cithara, and about the ancient evidence for how Greek music sounded and the way it was used with the metrical nature of Greek verse. Alexander even donned a mask and performed some music that he had composed (in ancient style) for a section of the first Chorus in Aeschylus' Agamemnon.

It is good to welcome back old boys – and quite a bonus to have them take a lesson so ably and enjoyably. NR



Triathlon Success

In other alumni news, recent Form 8 leaver, Edward, was selected for the South Central Regional Triathlon Team (only four in the team) and here he is, very proudly modelling his new tri suit.

Edward is a top runner, currently running 5K in under 18 minutes! NH

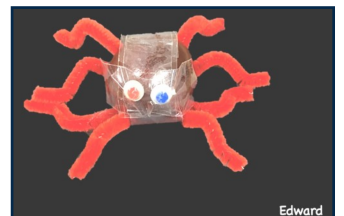
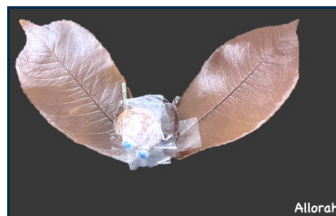


Pre-Prep News

A very warm welcome back to School to our Nursery and Pre-Prep parents and children. We have had a fantastic first few days getting to know the new children in our classes, as well as our wonderful new staff members, Mr Berry and Miss Rebecca. The positive energy in our Pre-Prep has been a real delight, and the children have enjoyed a very happy and busy few days.



Whilst the weather has been typically British this week, it did not stop us from having a fun time bringing the outside indoors. We shared songs on the guitar, hot chocolate, and woodland-themed stories. The children made their own woodland creatures out of conkers, leaves and twigs, and created unique paintings by rolling and printing with pinecones.



We also began our Pre-Prep Library and Drama Clubs. From next week, our Pre-Prep Mandarin Club for Reception - Form 2 children will be taking place on Wednesdays after school. We will also be commencing our lunchtime Recorder and Percussion clubs.

We very much look forward to welcoming our Nursery and Pre-Prep Parents to our 'Meet the Teachers Coffee Morning' from 8.45 am - 9.30 am on Wednesday 11th September. TR

Nursery News

All of our Nursery children are settling into the year and making new friends.

We were probably the most excited group in the whole school when it rained on Thursday, providing our first opportunity to put on outside suits and have lots of water to play with. HB



Lost Property

There is a large black Lost Property Box in the foyer outside the Walton Hall. Please do encourage your children to take a look if they have lost any of their belongings. LJ

Changes to Contact Details

Please would parents let us know if there have been any changes to home addresses, email addresses or telephone numbers over the summer holidays. Thank you.

Chorister News

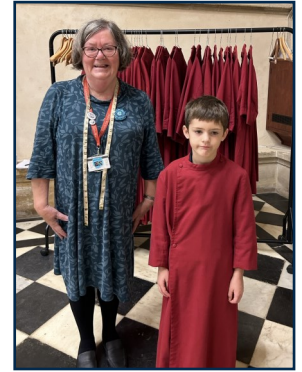
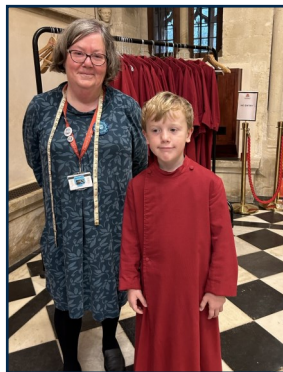


The Cathedral Choristers had a hugely successful tour to California at the end of Trinity Term. They sang at concerts, services and alumni events in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Palo Alto and Monterey, but also found just enough free time to explore Universal Studios, Disneyland and even Alcatraz.

It was a terrific trip and the boys sang brilliantly throughout. SB



Meanwhile, our new Cathedral Choristers have been fitted for their robes, ready to begin their journey as members of the Cathedral Choir.



Forms 4 - 8 Flexi-Boarding

Bookings for Flexi-Boarding are now open.

If you would like your son to join our boarding community, please email:

registrar@cccs.org.uk