



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 20th September 2024

Dear Parents,

We are always reviewing our practices here at the School and during the course of the in-service training days prior to the beginning of term we talked, as a staff, about ways of ensuring that we get the best from our pupils. As with all schools, we have a system of rewards and sanctions – carrots and sticks! We felt strongly, that on the occasions when sanctions are needed, teachers should act as consistently as possible – we talked through all sorts of scenarios and discussed what would be appropriate in terms of sanction – and we continue to value the approach in which sanctions are always accompanied by a time of reflection and discussion, in order that pupils understand where they have gone wrong and how they might avoid such actions again. In terms of rewards, we wish to retain our system of having both merits for good work and other achievements, and pluses for helpfulness, thoughtfulness and good manners. Furthermore, we have ordered three containers into which boys will put coloured tokens (yellow red or blue, for each House). As pupils achieve merits and pluses, they will be able to collect, from the teacher who awarded them a merit or plus, tokens of their House colour and add them to the appropriate container, thereby seeing the effect upon the House total of their individual contribution. As a result of these discussions, we will update our Pupil Behaviour Policy accordingly and share it with you. Of course, the application of rewards and sanctions is a powerful tool in ensuring that the school is a healthy society in which pupils thrive and achieve, and that the good manners and tolerance for which we are well - known continue to permeate the School.

A Duolingo foreign language learning challenge has been launched and a large number of pupils have signed up to take part in the competition. For those of you who are not presently obsessed with Duolingo, or who have never encountered it, it is a language learning site which sets you tasks in a foreign language and at which, depending upon how well you do and how much time you spend on it, will earn you points. Mme Loyer has set up a Duolingo site, which means that everyone can see how many 'XP' points people have amassed. The competition is fierce. I spotted a senior pupil walking along Brewer Street yesterday, swaying from side to side at 8.00 in the morning. You can imagine that I was rather perturbed. As he lurched closer, I realised that he was concentrating on his phone, desperately trying to get in a few more last minute seconds on Duolingo before he had to hand in his mobile phone to the office for the day. This year I have joined the site and have, at a Morning Assembly, challenged all the pupils – telling them that they need to “BE AFRAID!” or in the Italian that I am so busy learning: “Dovete avere paura di me!” One pupil has even designed me an avatar with all too recognisable characteristics. One of my lunch companions asked me how many points I had – “38”, I told him grinning with pride. He shook his head “YOU need to be afraid – I have 2466 points! My plan to lull everyone into a false sense of security and then to rush to victory from behind at the last minute is clearly well on track!

I am very grateful to Michael Crooks, father of Adam in Form 6, and Chair of the PA. I attended a breakfast meeting of the PA on Tuesday and Michael is overseeing a wonderfully energetic and committed body of parents who have the best interests of the school at heart. A wonderful light show with exciting stalls is being planned for the end of term and we are working on arranging our termly visit to Christ Church, details to follow. The project that the PA will be helping to fund this year is the new library, which we will be able to start work on when the equipment currently occupying the space can be moved to the new pavilion... Do get in touch with Mr Crooks if you would like to be more involved with the Association or wish to know more.

As you know, prefects and senior boys always join me at the gate on Brewer Street in the morning to help welcome the younger boys and girls. Yesterday morning one of the boys arrived characteristically early. “You’re early!” I observed. With an air of mature authority, he responded: “An early prefect catches the gate!” Clearly proverbial wisdom is not dead at CCCS!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2024
Monday 23rd - Sunday 29th September

MONDAY 23	
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 3 - 8 After School Football Club (Merton Field)
TUESDAY 24	
2.30	U8 & U9 A & B Rugby v Cokethorpe/Hatherop (Away)
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 5 - 8 After School Squash Club (Squash Court)
WEDNESDAY 25	
	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming
9.30 - 11.00	Nursery Stay & Play
2.30	U12 & U13 A & B Rugby v Cokethorpe (Away)
2.30	U10 & U11 A Rugby v Cokethorpe (Home)
3.30 - 4.15	Rec - Form 2 After School Mandarin Club (Form 1 Classroom)
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 3 - 5 Mandarin Club (Form 4 Classroom)
4.30 - 11.30	Forms 7 & 8 Trip: Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford
THURSDAY 26	
	Languages Day
9.00 - 12.30	Form 5 Trip: Formula 1 Factory, Enstone
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)
4.15 - 6.15	Forms 3 - 8 Online Tutor Meetings
FRIDAY 27	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker: The Headmaster
4.10 - 5.00	Forms 3 - 8 After School Rugby Club (Merton Field)
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 28	<i>Ember Day</i>
SUNDAY 29	<i>Michael and All Angels</i> <i>The Eighteenth Sunday After Trinity</i>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Oxford Chamber Music Festival</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CLICK THE BANNER to book tickets for 'These Enchanted Isles' 23rd - 28th September</p>
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Languages News

Our Duolingo Challenge is extremely competitive this year... We have 50 pupils, relatives and members of staff taking part. The first round will end at 8.00 pm this Sunday.

The next and final round will start on Monday. Bonne Chance!!

It is heart-warming to hear the boys having so many conversations about language learning. "Which language are you learning?" "What's your streak?" "How many XPs and gems have you got?"

Five minutes a day might not be enough for anyone to win but the boys definitely enjoy being part of the competition, whilst improving their language skills!



We have begun receiving a few pictures of beautifully decorated cakes, representing countries chosen by the boys. A HUGE thank you to the parents and grandparents who are getting involved!

Please email Mme Williams for Pre-Prep entries: williams.a@cccs.org.uk or Mme Loyer for Prep entries: loyer.s@cccs.org.uk.

(photo for inspiration only!)



On Thursday, Pre-Prep children may come to school dressed in a national costume or with some accessories representing another country. Fun ahead! SL

Cycling News

There are a few spaces left for our annual Bikeability Levels 1 & 2 course. If your son hasn't completed this training yet, can ride a bike, and is older than 9, he will really benefit from Bikeability.

Please fill in the consent form before the end of next week:

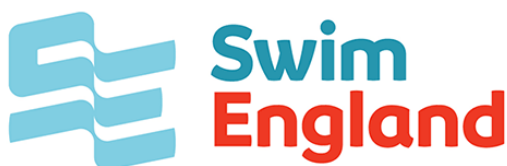
<https://consent.bikeability.org.uk/aid-ever-went>



As the days are getting shorter and school runs darker, we would like to remind you that pupils are expected to cycle wearing a helmet and a Hi-Vis jacket at all times.

Please check your bike's lights before it gets too dark! SL

Swimming Success



Well done to Kailuo in Form 6 for his amazing swimming times. As a member of City of Oxford Swimming Club, Kailuo has an intensive training schedule and spends many weekends attending galas around the South East region.

Kailuo's strongest swimming stroke is butterfly, and within his age category, his current national rankings on the Swim England website put him 17th in 50m, 8th in 100m and 4th in 200m. LJ

Pre-Prep Trip to Cogges Manor Farm

Forms 1 and 2 had a lovely morning at Cogges Manor Farm (home of Yew Tree Farm and Mr Drewe, the tenant farmer from Downton Abbey) for an Outside Adventures Day. The weather was glorious and we arrived at the farm in high spirits, ready for a day filled with fun activities.

The children built shelters by scavenging for the tallest branches that they could find, before gathering around the fire for a snack. We got to toast crumpets over the fire before buttering them up and enjoying them along with delicious hot chocolate.

Next, we moved into the orchard, searching for the most interesting apple varieties. We were given a variety of stones, feathers, pinecones and more, to make an environmental art piece. The art pieces ranged from improvisational, to robots and cats!

We walked back through the farm and ate our lunch in the barn, talking about our favourite activities from the morning. After lunch, we got to feed the residential goats; Bill, Max, Edith and Sybil. The staff at Cogges Manor Farm were so kind as to offer us their playground, where the children had enormous fun.

When we got back to school, we decided to make the most of the sunny day by taking a trip to our very own Woodland School, on Merton Field. We had a refreshing drink of squash and a flapjack, before playing a few rounds of hide and seek.

“My favourite bit was the adventure playground because it was SO fun” - Fraser

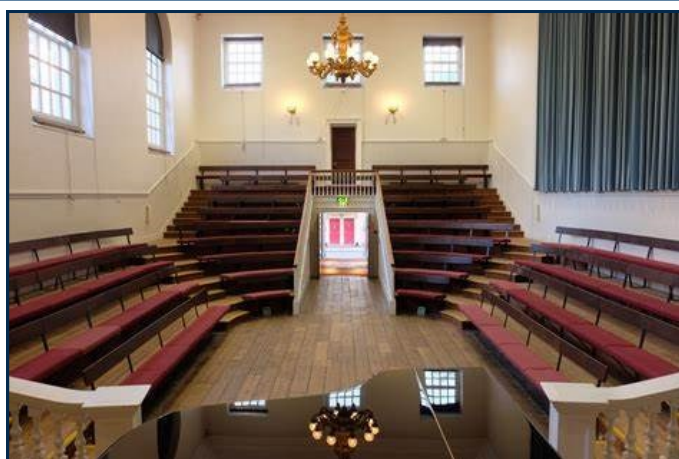
“I liked cooking crumpets because I love crumpets” - Edward

“The best part was the cookie and juice at Woodland School” - AJ



Art News

Form 3 have been busy creating Andy Goldsworthy inspired patterns in Art. They did some great work as shown below. EE



Abingdon School Concert at the Holywell

Musicians from Abingdon School will be performing in a concert at the Holywell Music Room next month, and I've received an open invitation to CCCS families for any of our pupils who would like to attend.

The Holywell Music Room is generally thought to be the oldest purpose-built concert hall in Europe and is well worth a visit. This should also be a good way for prospective music award

holders to get a feel for music at Abingdon.

The concert will take place on 3rd October and you can register for tickets here:

<https://shorturl.at/HearY>

Sports News



This week all boys from Forms 5 - 8 played their first Rugby fixtures of the year.

Forms 5 and 6 played away to Chandlings on Wednesday afternoon, whilst Form 7 & 8 boys played in fixtures on Merton Field against Abingdon Prep School.

I was very pleased to hear and see that the boys all played brilliantly and gave really good accounts of themselves against some tough opposition. Results were mixed, but a number of teams came away with excellent victories. Some found it slightly harder and were narrowly beaten. Given that these are the first

matches of the year, having only had a few Games lessons to prepare, the whole sports department are very proud and excited about what this season has in store.

Well done to all the boys that took part this week. DP