



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 11th October 2024

Dear Parents,

This week, we played some matches against Ashfold School. Last year, Ashfold beat our First XV with ease. This year it was very different, and it was a great pleasure for me to see our boys not only win but to play really sophisticated Rugby. The ball was being passed brilliantly around the pitch and the tackling and running was something to behold. On numerous occasions the ball was grounded beyond their tryline by one of our triumphant players. It is always wonderful to see CCCS triumph; all such victories arise from the enthusiasm with which people play the game. Such an approach breeds success - but I am delighted that so many of our pupils, whatever their ability, seem to enjoy the game. Ultimately, that's the point. If your son is in a match, do consider coming to watch him and his teammates; there are some truly wonderful games being played at the moment.

This weekend is one of my favourites, it is the weekend when the boys of Worcester and Pembroke Choirs resume their services. Our three choirs are thriving – around half of the Prep School boys sing in the choirs, and the service that they provide to the chapels of the colleges is profound. We have so many singers in the School; if your son is not in one of the choirs do please consider whether he might like to join one. The benefits are very significant, of course, including a musical education beyond compare, as well as inculcating the ability to concentrate for extended periods, which is a gift for life. Choristers also have a wonderful sense of performance and know how to present themselves publicly. As much as anything they will come to know intimately some of the most wonderful music composed. When I taught English at St Edward's, I often noticed that it was former choristers who were the best at understanding how to read poetry both to themselves and to others – a wonderful thing to be able to do. May I also wish our Form 5 Cathedral boys all the very best as they are made up this weekend into full choristers – a very significant moment.

A few weeks ago I took a group of boys over to Christ Church to have a look at some of the things that inspired Lewis Carroll to write *Alice in Wonderland*, such as the tree in which the Cheshire Cat appears and the old Norman doorway which featured in '*Alice Through the Looking Glass*'. We were in the Great Hall when one of the Hall supervisors discovered what we were doing. "You do know about the Alice carvings on the Hall chairs, don't you?" I thought I knew most things about Alice, but I knew nothing about the chairs. The kind supervisor started pulling out chairs and showed us that on a large number there are beautiful carvings of characters from the stories, including the Cheshire Cat himself. There is so much to discover here in Oxford – there are no limits to this city's charms. Talking of what the City has to offer, I am delighted that our Tom Tower trip is now full – I look forward to seeing you there.

Stop Press! This week I was able to read three stories to the Nursery pupils who have clearly developed into a three-story group of pupils. I have to confess that I put everything into the reading of the story – voices, pauses, facial gestures - and this time they listened with great attention throughout. I suspect that four stories might be pushing it at this stage. But let's see!

I was delighted to see one of the younger boys coming down Brewer Street towards me recently. Mostly he hails me with warmth and enthusiasm: "Hello Mr Murray!" As he got close, I waited for his greeting but, at the last moment, he stopped and noticed a puddle. He put his foot into the puddle and concentrated hard upon the small sheet of mucky water, ignoring me completely. "Hello!" I said, hopefully. "Puddle" said the boy with authority. His father laughed and noted wryly: "It's not every day that one is upstaged by a puddle."

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

## Michaelmas 2024

### Monday 14th October - Sunday 20th October

MONDAY 14 4.10 - 5.00	Forms 3 - 8 After School Football Club (Merton Field)
TUESDAY 15 9.00 4.10 - 5.00 4.30 - 7.30 6.00	Whole School Portrait Photographs Forms 5 - 8 After School Squash Club (Squash Court) Pre-Prep Parents' Evening Online CC: Court Sermon
WEDNESDAY 16  2.30 2.30 3.30 - 4.15 4.10 - 5.00	Forms 3 & 4 Swimming U12 & U13 A & Bs v Oratory (Away, returning 4.45) U10 & U11 A & Bs v Oratory (Home) Rec - Form 2 After School Mandarin Club (Form 1 Classroom) Forms 3 - 5 Mandarin Club (Form 4 Classroom)
THURSDAY 17  9.00 2.45 4.10 - 5.00 4.10 - 5.00	Strings Day at Winchester College Vision Screening Check (4-5 years) U8 & U9 Rugby v Abingdon (Away, returning 4.15) Pre-Prep After School Rugby/Multi Skills Club (Merton Field/WWH) Forms 6 - 8 After School Mandarin Club (Form 4 Classroom)
FRIDAY 18 8.30 2.00 - 3.00 4.10 - 5.00	<i>Luke the Evangelist</i> Cathedral Assembly, TBC Pre-Prep Harvest festival (Cathedral) Forms 3 - 8 After School Rugby Club (Merton Field) <span style="float: right;">CC: OUT</span>
SATURDAY 19 6.00	CC: Patronal Eucharist—Frideswide Voices and Boys and Clerks
SUNDAY 20  5.30	<i>The Twenty-First Sunday After Trinity</i> <i>University Second Week</i> Pembroke Evensong

## Music Visitors

We welcomed an exciting 7-piece band, The Brass Funkeys, to school before break time on Thursday, with the pupils clearly inspired by their infectious energy and enthusiasm!

The band demonstrated their different instruments, including the sousaphone, before playing an eclectic range of songs, from traditional New Orleans spirituals to Disney! Everyone had a great time learning new dance moves. You can find out more at [www.brassfunkeys.com](http://www.brassfunkeys.com), including their upcoming show at the London Jazz Festival (24th November, Southbank Centre 4pm,



## Singing Outreach

On Wednesday we welcomed 50 children and 10 staff from St Swithun's Primary School to CCCS for a music workshop, a meet-the-choristers session and a singing performance in the Cathedral. The children were fascinated to hear about the busy lives of our cathedral choristers, but also interested to hear why they loved music so much. Our boys talked openly to the children



about how singing makes them feel, and described it as a universal language that helps them to communicate with people from different backgrounds. Splendour, Henry and William were excellent ambassadors for CCCS music and sang with skill and confidence throughout the morning - especially with two impressive solos by Mendelssohn and Handel by Splendour. Well done! SB

## Masterclass with Peter Clements



It was excellent to welcome Peter Clements, the Director of Music at St Edward's, to CCCS today to do some work with a small group of our senior musicians. Trust (flute), Splendour (voice), Hugo (piano), Russell (cello) and Leo (piano) each had an opportunity to perform a piece and work on it with Mr Clements. He gave us all lots of food for thought about phrasing, bowing, voicing and ideas to bring different colours out of the boys' pieces. Congratulations to all performers! SB



## Early Years News

The youngest children enjoyed sunshine on their autumnal exploration this week. They looked for signs of autumn, finding hawthorn berries, and a spider's web on their way to the Woodland School site. We passed by the new Pavilion and the children were curious why we had come to look at it.

'Is it going to be our new house?' asked one of the children.

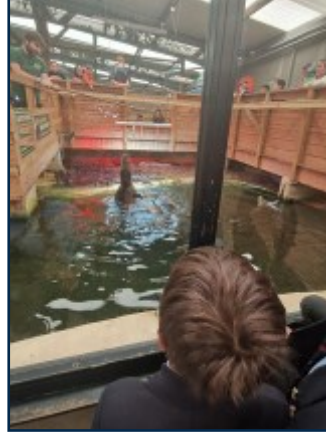
'Can we help them? Wow, is he building a tree house? When is he lifting it into the trees?' asked another of the children.

We now await with anticipation our opportunity to use the Pavilion as our base for our adventures on the Meadow, which may have already become 'The Tree House' in the youngest children's lexicon. HB



## Crocodiles of the World Form 5 Trip

On Monday Form 5 visited Crocodiles of the World in Brize Norton to find out more about reptiles and their habitats. This formed part of their current science topic of Living Things and their Habitats. The boys enjoyed a tour of the zoo as well as seeing the crocodiles being fed. We were surprised to learn that crocodiles only need to eat once per week! Our guide, Callum, was incredibly knowledgeable. The boys learnt so much and thoroughly enjoyed their visit. CS



## Science in Form 1

This term we have been learning about the human body. We started our journey of discovery by looking at both our internal organs and our skeletons, before moving on to investigating our five senses and a healthy lifestyle.

We embarked upon a senses walk around the School, discovering aspects of our setting that we were not familiar with. This included the sun streaming in through the beautiful stained glass in 3 Brewer Street, sepia Victorian school photographs on the main staircase by Mr Murray's study, the smells of delicious meals being made in the kitchen, and the smooth marquetry of the Steinway and Sons piano on the landing by the Boarders' Common Room.



The class are incredibly knowledgeable about what it means to have a healthy lifestyle, impressing us all with their knowledge of the importance of exercise, healthy choices with food and ensuring their mental well-being, with plenty of sleep and social activities. We had great fun sorting real life food items into different food groups and creating our ideal healthy plates. I have no doubt that, with such a wonderful knowledge of the importance of balance, and taking good care of both their minds and bodies, the Form 1 cohort will flourish in the coming months and years at CCCS. MB

## Maths in Form 3

Form 3 have been working hard learning about 2D and 3D shapes in maths this week. The boys described the properties of 3D shapes using the vocabulary faces, edges and vertices. They sorted shapes using a Carroll diagram and made their very own 3D shapes using sticks and playdough. They even designed their own shape top trumps game! SG



## History of Science Museum Form 7 Trip

On Wednesday the boys in Form 7 visited the History of Science Museum on Broad Street to learn more about the history of electricity. They were lucky enough to have the museum to themselves for the morning and enjoyed exploring the many fascinating collections. They enjoyed a demonstration of electrostatic experiments and found out more about Benjamin Franklin's work with lightning conductors. I was incredibly impressed with how the boys conducted themselves during the visit and how knowledgeable they were about the subject. CS



## Sports Report

On Tuesday, Forms 3 and 4 made the journey to Ashfold, despite testing weather. The Form 3s played 6-a-side tag rugby in a triangular tournament. With some brilliant teamwork, particularly the passing, they came away with a victory in the first game. Even with fatigue setting in, the boys managed a close win in the second game.



The Form 4 B team played a close game, but just fell short. The Form 4 A team also played a triangular tournament with a narrow loss in their first game against Winchester House, and used that as fuel to win the second game against Ashfold.



On Wednesday, the Ashfold U12 & U13 A and B teams came to Christ Church. Our A team scored some early tries to put them in good stead for the rest of the game. The B team took part in a breathtaking fixture coming back with a strong second half, but sadly just falling short at the final whistle.



Form 5 travelled to Ashfold with the B team challenging their home side... unfortunately, it wasn't enough. The A team played in a high scoring game coming away with a draw.

The main theme throughout the week has been the resilience shown by the boys, which will put them in a strong position going forward. OW



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