



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 24th January 2025

Dear Parents,

We were very fortunate to have preaching to us this morning the Vice-Provost of Eton, Mr Peter McKie. The Provost is the Chair of Governors at Eton and the Vice-Provost, the Vice Chair. Both of them have a hand in the appointment of the Headmaster. Unlike in most schools where the Governors of a school live elsewhere, at Eton the Provost and Vice-Provost live at the School in elegant residences where they are able to entertain the pupils and staff. The Vice-Provost was telling me that one of his duties is to undertake what is called an “asset check” of the College Library. The College Library at Eton is rather different from that at most schools. In it is contained approximately 50,000 printed books from the 16th to 21st Centuries, and if this is not enough, one of those books is a copy of the earliest printed book, The Gutenberg Bible (of which there are only 21 complete copies in the world). The library contains more than 200 mediaeval manuscripts, and approximately 100 books of which there is no other known copy. Probably the greatest treasure of the library is the Eton Choir book, a remarkable collection of 15th Century musical works which is unparalleled, because almost all other 15th Century musical manuscripts in England have been lost. Over the past decade, our Cathedral Choir has recorded many of the works from this book on CD, recordings which are considered some of the finest interpretations of this remarkable music available. The Vice-Provost’s role during the “asset check” is to assure himself that all the most precious books are still there and, every year, he randomly selects some other works from the catalogue which then must be produced. To my mind this job sounds, despite its uninspiring name – who came up with the title ‘asset check’? - to be one of the most pleasurable of labours.

Mr McKie chose as his subject the moment in the Bible when the twelve year old Jesus escapes from his parents and makes his way to the Temple in Jerusalem to spend time debating theology with the rabbis. As Mr McKie said “Just imagine if any of you left school and were found in the Cathedral discussing intellectual matters with some of the fellows of Christ Church!” The funny thing is, I could imagine some of our boys doing just that! Mr McKie ended by saying that young men and women were capable of great things but that their successes would not happen without the help and support of their teachers, parents and friends – the community in which they learnt was always of the greatest importance. I couldn’t agree more!

As it happens, this week I have been giving a large number of pupils interview practice in preparation for their senior school applications. I see all of the boys who are asked to interview at senior schools. I tell them about the nature of the individual schools they are going for and then we run a mock interview. As Mr McKie suggested, it is so often the relationship between teachers and pupils that make all the difference in terms of their education and I believe, therefore, that interviews are an important component of selection. and I applaud senior schools (unlike most Universities) for continuing the practice.

Even though I have been at CCCS for more than a decade, I am still very struck by the enthusiasm of our pupils. I visited Pre-Prep this morning. Pupils were being asked to show some of their work. Mr Robards said to one of the pupils: “Would you like to read a little bit of your work?” “No!” responded the pupil, “I would like to read ALL of it!” which he promptly and fluently did, enjoying every single word!

The same attitude was in evidence when, a few mornings ago, a boy arrived at school beaming. “How are you?” I asked. “Ecstatic!” he responded. “Why?” I asked. “Because I have a Pembroke Choir rehearsal in a minute. It fills me with electricity!” No wonder I feel so energised whenever I listen to our choirs!

Mr Murray  
Headmaster



## Early Years News

This week the Early Years children visited the Woodland School situated on the edge of Merton Field. On our journey we watched the Christ Church gardeners refreshing the planting in the War Memorial Garden and the Rose Garden, exposing the snake-like watering pipes that are buried amongst the soil. We spotted several emerging signs of the progression of the seasons including catkins on the trees in the woodland. The children were delighted to be able to explore the older boys' encampment and to sit in one of their dens.



We are very happy that the Gappers and Year 8 boys are regular visitors this term. The children are always keen to have someone to read, build sandcastles or construct tracks or buildings with them. I particularly like the eager building of sandcastles this week and guidance on the creation of strong towers from the DT Ambassador. HB

## Form 1 News

Form 1 have had a busy week undertaking all manner of practical Maths activities. Great fun has been had hunting for 2D/3D shapes around School, as well as learning all about position and direction. The children very much enjoyed a series of interactive challenges, involving giving instructions to their friends to complete tasks, and helping to guide our classroom mascots, including the forgetful, and somewhat easily distracted, 'Sunny Strawberry', to move from one fixed point to another.

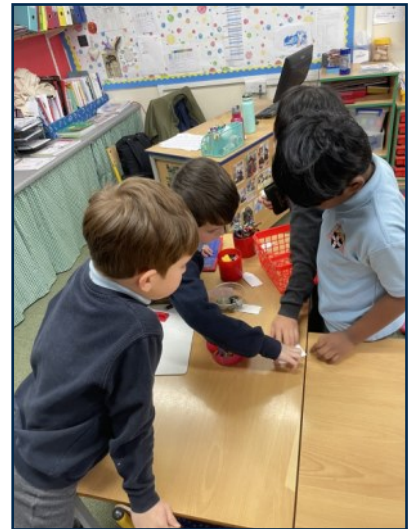
Perhaps the most popular activity of all, was a 'Pre-Prep Marching Squadron' on the playground, with the children taking it in turns to vociferously issue marching directions. My ears are still ringing now! TR



## Form 2 News

In Maths this week, Form 2 have been learning about money. We set up a toy shop in our classroom to put our Mathematical knowledge to the test. Working in pairs, the children each had a chance to be a shopper and a shopkeeper. The shopkeeper's first job was to decide on a price for each of their toys, including checking their stock to determine how valuable their items were. The shoppers were given a budget of £2.75 and had to decide carefully how to make the most of their money to get the toys that they wanted. When paying, the shopkeepers had to make sure that they gave the correct change to the shoppers.

One pair was able to buy 6 toys with 89p left to spare, whereas another team took their browsing seriously, ending up with only 3 toys and £1.30 still! The children had great fun in our toyshop and have commented on how they would strategise next time. MH-W



## Enrichment News

Cooking club - After delicious pizzas last week, the boys are enjoying their CCCS-made cheese scones.



## Sports News

This week we have had numerous football fixtures, from Form 3 up to Form 8. We have had some wonderful performances, with a number of wins, some hard fought draws and some narrow, valiant defeats.

A special mention must go to Louis Helsby in Form 3 who has now scored three hat-tricks in his past three matches.

It has been wonderful to see all the boys performing with such incredible effort, skill and teamwork, showing brilliant progress and dedication to the cause on the football pitch this week. As a sports department, we are really proud of the improvement we have seen on the pitches recently and how all the boys continue to represent the school.

### Match Report

This week on a mild Wednesday afternoon, Forms 7 & 8 went on a journey. They were going to face Bruern Abbey A Team. The match started very well when Troy managed to tackle one of the opposing players, then passed it back to Henry Y. Then Henry played a ball over the defender's head for Troy to run onto and score an outstanding goal in the first minute. This set CCCS for a great match! Then, only a couple minutes later, Troy dribbled through many of the rock-hard defenders and slotted another powerful goal in for CCCS.

Soon after Teghena ran down the line with the ball causing many problems for the defenders. Milan received the ball in the middle of the pitch and played an amazing ball to Carson to run onto, and slot another goal in to make it 3-0 to CCCS! Then the half time whistle came.

With a great half time talk from Mr Pear we were set. However, Bruern Abbey had a good one as well because they came back even stronger in the second half, really testing our defenders Carl and Patrick. But with some great composure and tackles, they managed to keep them away from scoring. With a link up on the side of the pitch from Andrew, Harshadeep managed to get the ball in the middle to Henry, for him to play Carson for his second goal of the match. However, Bruern were making some strong tackles and getting the ball back quickly, but Ludo was very calm and passed the ball before they could make these challenges and played it very well up the pitch.

It was close in the second half with CCCS only scoring one goal by Carson, but after a bit of playing the ball around, we wore Bruern out and took this chance to get our fifth goal of the game. Leo ran down the line and passed it into Henry for him to play a nice pass through the defenders to Troy for his mighty hat-trick. The final whistle blew and CCCS celebrated a great win as we carry on our unbeaten streak. The Man of The Match was Troy Buttimer.

*Written by Henry Young and Troy Buttimer*

# CYBER PROTECT WEBINARS



SOUTH EAST  
**ROCU**

REGIONAL  
ORGANISED  
CRIME UNIT

## The Digital Dilemma: Keeping Children Safe Online

January 23rd, 28th, 30th  
February 3rd, 6th, 10th, 12th, 13th

 **TICKETS ONLINE:** 

Eventbrite: [Police - South East Cyber](#)

### FREE WEBINAR FOR PARENTS & CARERS

run by Police Cyber Protect teams

Hints and tips to secure your family  
online, covering cyber risks and scams in:

**Gaming**



**Social Media**



**Email**

### TO BOOK YOUR SPACE:

Click [here](#), scan the QR code  
or search online for "eventbrite police southeast cyber"



DON'T LET IT BE **GAME OVER**  
**LEVEL UP** YOUR ONLINE SECURITY