

# Ethos of politeness

Headmaster of Christ Church Cathedral School in Oxford, Richard Murray, explains how manners form the bedrock from which his pupils' achievements spring



**M**anners are the outward sign of a person who cares for others. To stand aside while someone else passes through the door, means that you have noticed their presence and taken an interest in them.

The present world poses many challenges for our children, but none is so great as the need to ensure that they know how to enjoy stable and positive relationships with those around them.

At Christ Church Cathedral School, manners are central to everything we do. Visitors very often remark upon the civilised way in which our pupils behave and it is the case that they treat each other with remarkable sensitivity. It is from this position of mutual regard and support for one another that all their many achievements spring.

Our extraordinary success in obtaining scholarships at senior schools, which for the last 10 years more than 50% of our leavers have done, is closely linked to the supportive atmosphere of the learning environment. The number of our pupils who obtain distinctions and merits in music exams, often at Grade 8, is related to the focused environment made possible in such a civilised school.

Boys are allowed to be themselves, and

are encouraged to undertake activities which genuinely interest them, rather than those that people expect them to enjoy, whether that be Real Tennis, Sewing, Rugby, Chess or Ancient Greek. This gives them a sense of confidence about their identity and ensures they realise the crucial benefits of living within a society.

Though Christ Church is an ancient school, set amongst some of the most historical buildings in England, its pupils are being educated with a rapidly changing world in mind. Expectations are high, flexibility is encouraged and tenacity is valued. These qualities allow our boys to leave the school with a love of learning and with a deep sense of the beauty of the world and of its infinite fascination and variety.

If you are a prospective parent, please come and see us. We host regular Open Mornings as well as private tours by appointment.

In person, you can see our lovely school and the opportunities we offer first hand. Please contact our Registrar, Laura Kemp, for more information:

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