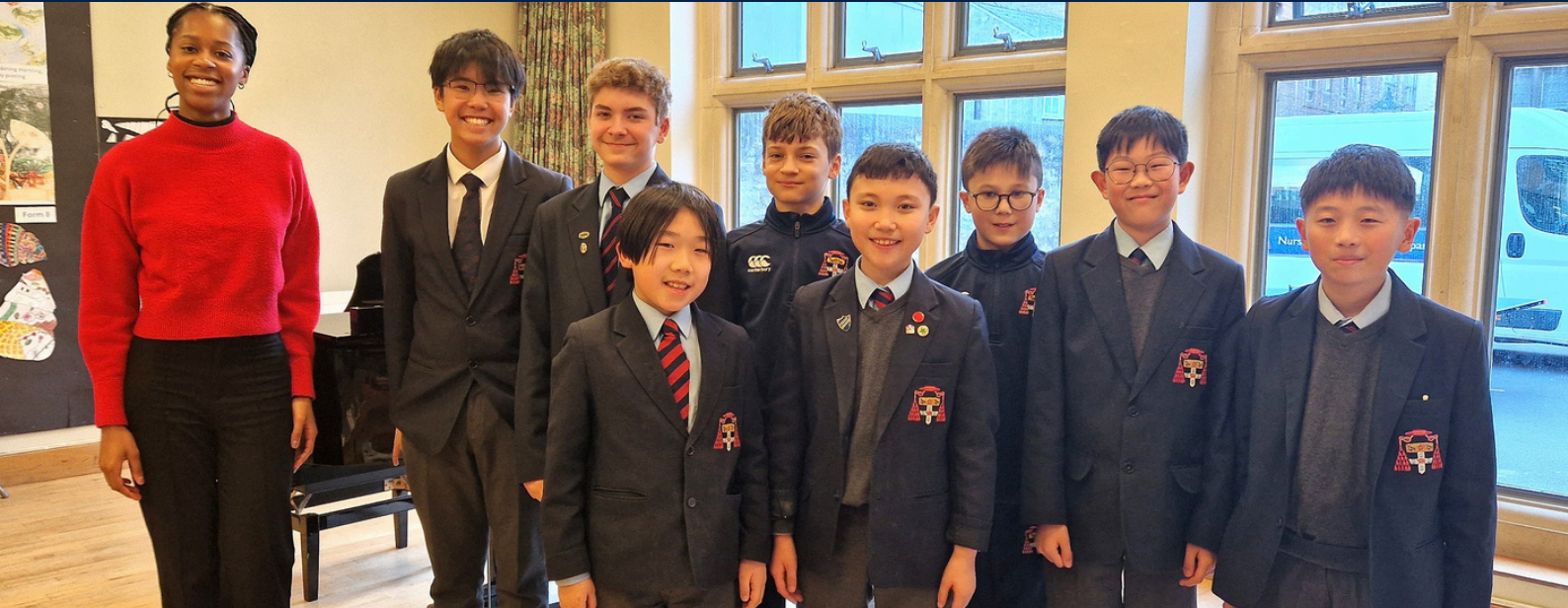




Christ Church Cathedral School News

— 28th February 2025 —



A message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

Today I took some steps which I never thought I would take; they were across the threshold of the new Pavilion. To say that I felt like Neil Armstrong taking his first steps on the moon - "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" - is to exaggerate the moment, but it certainly felt pretty monumental! Mr Harrison and I were able to enter the building and look round its reception room, its kitchen and changing rooms. I was able to admire its lavatory facilities in all their glory and to see the generous storage facilities. As we have always said, the Pavilion will revolutionise the way in which we will be able to use the playing fields. I am certain that, as it comes properly on stream, its many uses and benefits will become apparent. The helpful site foreman felt that we would be able to use the Pavilion before the end of this term, so an official opening in the summer looks extremely likely. Please put Saturday 14th June in your diary as the date for Sports Day and the Official Opening, which we will combine. I was also struck by how elegant the building looks – both modern and traditional at the same time, both handsome and yet restrained, all essential qualities given its illustrious architectural companions so liberally ranged around it. I am so thrilled that it has come into being and is so very close to completion now. We will be writing to you next week about the building and ways in which you may be able to help.

To my way of thinking, Winter ends on 28th February but Winter could not have ended more gloriously than today – a day of frost and beautiful winter sunshine. At lunchtime, the sun was shining beautifully and so I went out into the playground. I was very struck by the enthusiasm with which the boys were using our new equipment. We now have three table tennis tables, and around each one, crowds of people were assembled, waiting their turn to challenge one another. Spins of all types were being effectively utilised and brilliant shots were ten-a-penny. Meanwhile, games of both football and basketball were being played alongside each other with equal enthusiasm, while in another corner two parallel chess games were being prosecuted on the large chess tables. Interestingly it was the chess match which was the only battle that ended in a handshake. We will have to ensure that such a gesture of respect becomes the norm with the other sports! Meanwhile in another corner people played chase, while very nearby a couple of other boys were reading! I was so struck by the variety of activities being undertaken, and by the happiness and energy shown which reflected, so well, the sunny day!

We were visited this morning by The Revd Stephanie Burette who is the Chaplain of Corpus Christi College. She is very unusual in being one of only three female Anglican Priests in the history of the Church of England and was converted to Christianity and indeed to the Anglican version of it, while staying in Oxford. She spoke to the boys about the relationship between trees and fruits. You could tell a lemon tree by the quality of its lemons. And so, she argued, we should care about our fruits, the fruits of our behaviour. She also talked about the way in which we should appreciate the fruits of other people and what they had to offer. During the course of her prayers she reminded us that we could not fully understand one another and that, therefore, we should, as a consequence, treat each other with kindness and generosity. I thought this was a very striking and important insight.

This morning in Brewer Street, I was privileged to witness a conversation between two parents. One was showing pictures of some planets that he had taken through his telescope at home – they were very striking photos of Jupiter and its moons, of the moon itself and of the very obviously red glow of the planet Mars. At that moment another parent came up, who happens to be the leading astrophysicist in his country. A most interesting conversation about planetary alignments and astrological interpretations commenced, which was followed by a discussion of photography of telescopic images. Never let it be said that my wait on Brewer Street every morning is dull. And on this occasion, I haven't even mentioned the pupils... That can be for next week!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

The school office is always here to help.

Please remember to notify the school office if your child will be absent, or to book a place in after-school care or clubs.



schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk



01865 242 561

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School Calendar



School Diary: Monday 3rd March - Sunday 9th March

MONDAY 3RD

World Wildlife Day

2.30: U9/11/13 Thorngrove Cross Country Relays

5.15: Parents Information Evening, Ski Trip Easter 2025 (WWH)

TUESDAY 4TH

5.00: Geography Quiz at MCS

WEDNESDAY 5th

2.30: U12/13 Football v Dragon (Home)

THURSDAY 6TH

World Book Day

4.30: F6 Parents' Evening

FRIDAY 7TH

8.45: Cathedral Assembly, Speaker: The Right Hon Sir Ernest Ryder, Master, Pembroke College, Oxford

9.00 - 1.00: Nursery-F1 Story Museum

Jazz Party at the Oratory

CC: IN

Dates for your Diary

Open Morning - Tuesday 4th March

Prospective families are invited to attend next week's Open Morning, taking place from 9.30 to 12.00.

If you know of anyone who would like to attend, please ask them to **contact our Registrar at registrar@cccs.org.uk**



Here's a reminder of the daily after-school clubs and events taking place at school.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
4.15 - 5.00: Football, Forms 5-8	4.15 - 5.00: Squash Club, Forms 5-8	3.30 - 4.15: Mandarin Club, Rec - F2	4.15 - 5.00: Cricket, Forms 3-8	
4.15 - 5.00: Real Tennis, Forms 6-8	4.15 - 5.00: Multi Skills, Rec - F4	4.15 - 5.00: Mandarin Club, Forms 3-5	4.15 - 5.00: Mandarin Club, Forms 6-8	

Early Years News

On a particularly rainy Wednesday we decided to explore the school building rather than brave the elements.

We visited the entrance hall where we saw paintings of Cardinal Wolsey and Henry VIII. From there we ventured upstairs to look out onto the entrance and the school gate, where we noticed heart shapes on the top of the fence.

The children were fascinated by the piano and very impressed when Mr Berry showed them inside its gold interior and told us how the strings work. We carried on along the corridor to see Matron who kindly let us peek into one of the dorms. The children discussed which beds looked the neatest and one really stood out as very well made. Well done to the owner of that one!

We carefully came back down the stairs and knocked on the kitchen door and were able to see the ovens in action and our lunch being made, although, for obvious reasons, we decided we'd just view from a distance.

The children have also been consolidating their knowledge of colour and shades of colour using the Montessori colour boxes and have been working on phonics and numbers during both circle times and during our nursery session.

We are pleased to see signs of Spring in the garden and the appearance of the sun during the latter end of the week. RD



Pre-Prep enjoy the Spring sunshine

Pre-Prep on their way to Woodland School, enjoyed the Spring sunshine and learning the different flower names along the Broad Walk: daffodils, crocuses, cyclamen, and snowdrops.



We also stopped to admire and learn about the Venetian Gothic architecture of the Meadow Building of Christ Church. (1862) MB



Form 2 News

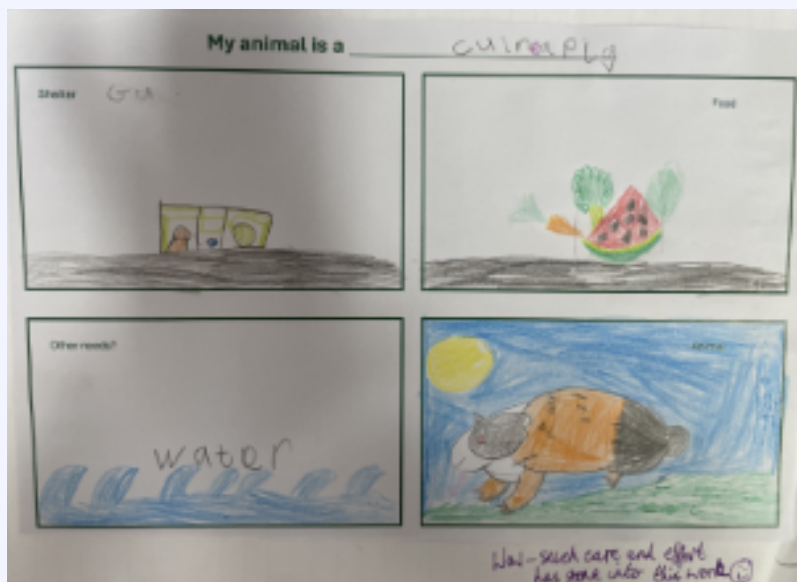
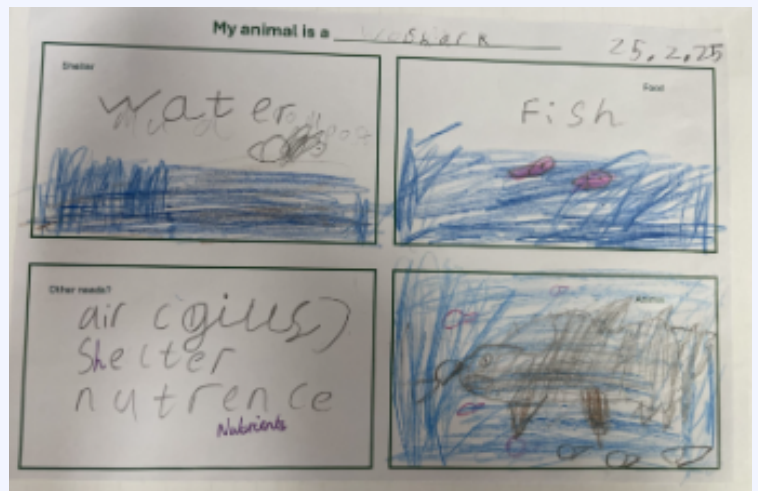
In Form 2, we have started learning about the basic needs of plants and animals.

We started by discussing the difference between what animals need to survive (e.g. food and water), versus what they need to thrive (e.g. companions). The children then worked together to decide if given statements about what animals needed were true or false.

There was a lot of interesting discussion around whether, for example, an animal would die if it did not use its senses - would it be able to see its prey or find its home? If it did not have babies - would its species survive? If it did not go to the loo - they remembered MRS GREN for this one!

Each child then moved on to consider the needs of one animal; from sharks to spiders, and some even chose themselves (after all, humans are of course animals). They thought carefully about what their animal would use for shelter, what they would eat and any other needs they would have, such as water and oxygen. Again, this task brought up many thoughtful conversations such as considering the differences in what an animal needs depending on whether they are a mammal or an amphibian, and what food to draw if they were a herbivore, an omnivore or a carnivore.

MH-W



Music News

Kanneh-Mason Masterclass

We were thrilled to welcome Jeneba Kanneh-Mason to CCCS to work with some of our pianists on Monday. The third youngest of the famous Kanneh-Mason family, Jeneba has been named as one of Classic FM's 'Rising Stars', and is already a busy international soloist with a new album about to be released by Sony.

She worked on a repertoire with eight of our pianists, giving really useful technical advice as well as tips about dealing with performance anxiety. The boys performed the repertoire which they'd worked on - which was a wonderful mixture of styles and moods, from Bach and Rameau to Schubert and Einaudi - at a concert for parents at the end of the day.

The event finished with a fiery performance by Jeneba of the last movement of Prokofiev's Piano Sonata No. 7... suffice to say there were lots of autographs given afterwards!



It was so exciting to have a performer of this calibre in school to inspire and stretch the boys. Many pupils and parents will remember last year's moving concert in the Cathedral given by our combined choristers alongside members of the Kanneh-Mason family and the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra, so I am delighted that we are able to maintain this relationship. Very well done to all the boys who played at this week's very special concert. SB

Sports News



Football News

On Tuesday Forms 3 and 4 took on Cothill House in a football fixture on Merton Field.

All three teams performed brilliantly and showed how far they have come on the football pitch over the past few months.

There were three hard fought, very tight matches, with some excellent goalkeeping, defending, creative play and finishing on show to the numerous parents who had come along to watch.

In the end we went down 5-3 on one pitch, drew 1-1 on one pitch and lost 3-2 on the other pitch.

Special mentions to Qi Heng, Jedi and Daniel who showed endless energy and a battling attitude during the afternoon.

Well done everyone.

DP



Sports News



Hockey Match News



On Monday our U12/13 teams travelled to Bloxham to play in two thrilling hockey matches.

Both teams battled hard against two well-drilled Bloxham sides, unfortunately both falling short. But for our first Hockey fixture of the year, the boys did exceptionally well.

I would like to give a special mention to Robin and Eaton, who were standout performers throughout the matches, but all of the boys' efforts were a credit to the school.

FB

CCCS Sporting Stars

Swimming Champion!



Congratulations to Kailuo in Form 6, who has been representing the City of Oxford Swimming Club in the 2025 Oxfordshire & North Buckinghamshire Swimming Championship. In the U11 group, Kailuo swam to victory winning an impressive **two gold medals** (4x50 mixed relay and the 200m Butterfly), **two silver medals** (50m Butterfly and 100m Butterfly) and **one bronze medal** in the 400m Freestyle.

Furthermore, his 200m Butterfly also qualified for the U12 South-Eastern Regional Championship this year! What an achievement!

Well done Kailuo, we are all so proud of you!

Thrilling Table Tennis Talent

Last Sunday, Leo (Form 7) and Jaden (Form 5) took part in the 2025 Oxford City Junior Table Tennis Championship.

Leo finished 2nd in the U16 group. Here he is receiving his Runners Up medal!

Jaden also did very well in the smaller U12 field, finishing third and just narrowly missing out on a medal.

What an incredible effort by both boys. Well done Leo and Jaden!



News from around the School

CCCS in the News

We are thrilled to be featured in the Oxford Mail's Education Supplement this week.

The publication requested class photos from local nurseries and we were happy to oblige!

We submitted this stunning photo of our Nursery children walking through Christ Church Meadow, admiring the beautiful architecture whilst en route to Woodland School.

Please [click here](#) to see more.



New term, new school menus

Our new menus are now available on the school website. Please [click here](#) to view them. For our boarders, here is a sneak peek of the delicious dinners you will enjoying next week!

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL SCHOOL						Week2 Dinner
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Dish of the day Grilled turkey escalope (DF) (Gluten free available)	Dish of the day BBQ chicken (DF) (Gluten free available)	Dish of the day Christ church college sliders (Dairy and Gluten free available)	Dish of the day Bratwurst hot dogs Onions and fries (GF,DF)	Dish of the day Pizza bar (GF,DF)	Dish of the day Chef's selection	Dish of the day Chef's selection
Sides Mashed potatoes vegetables	Sides Fries Tossed salads and garlic bread	Sides Steamed greens Baked wedges	Sides Mixed salads	Sides Tossed salad and coleslaw		
Salad bar Selection of raw and compound salads	Salad bar Selection of raw and compound salads	Salad bar Selection of raw and compound salads	Salad Bar Selection of raw and compound salads	Salad Bar Selection of raw and compound Salads		
Dessert Thick Greek yoghurt and fresh blueberries (GF) (Dairy free available)	Dessert Fresh fruit salad (GF,DF)	Dessert Mixed berries (GF,DF)	Dessert Vanilla cheesecake (Dairy and Gluten free available)	Dessert Ice cream selection (GF)		

Photos from around the School

DT Boys proudly displaying their hard work and skills.



More photos from the Kanneh-Mason Masterclass





FREE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!
MOST SUITABLE FOR 5-16 YRS

SCIENCE BAZAAR BEYOND

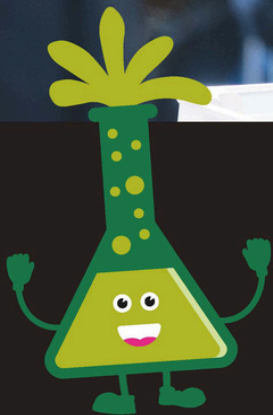
Saturday 1 March 2025

9:30am – 11:30am Relaxed autism-friendly early opening
11:30am – 4pm Open to all

Fun activities, hands-on workshops, experiments, talks, shows, competitions and cafe



BOOK
TICKETS



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**ROSE
AWARD**



Do you know any boys or girls in Pre-School or Reception who would enjoy a superb education in the heart of Oxford?

To celebrate the 500th anniversary of Christ Church, we are widening access to our School through the new **Rose Award**.

The award provides 50% off fees for children aged 4–6 who would **bloom** and **flourish** at Christ Church Cathedral School.

Ready to learn more? Contact us at registrar@cccs.org.uk



CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL