



Christ Church Cathedral School News

— 23rd May 2025 —



A message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to be able to announce our Senior School awards for this year. They are as follows:

Hugo Branderhorst, Music Scholarship, St Edward's School, Oxford
Russell Xiao, Music Scholarship, Abingdon School
Splendour Adeboga, Music Exhibition, Harrow School
Trust Tiyapairat, Music Exhibition, Eton College
Troy Buttimer, Golf Scholarship, Harrow School
Trust Tiyapairat, King's Scholarship, Eton College

These are a tremendous set of awards at some very serious schools and encompass three different types of scholarships. We really have some exceptionally talented young men in the School and I am very proud of what they, with the support of their teachers, have achieved this year. One of the highlights of my week is taking the English Scholarship classes. The boys come to my study and we read and analyse sophisticated poetry and tackle the taxing papers that senior schools set for their academic scholarships. I find the level of the boys taking scholarships in the School very impressive indeed. I have to say that the papers that Eton set for their King's Scholarship are fiendish and so it was a huge achievement for Trust that he did so well in his papers gaining some outstanding grades on this most difficult and demanding of scholarships. I also cannot remember when we last obtained a golf scholarship but certainly I will be looking out for Troy at the Open in the years to come! As ever I am so proud of the music awards we continue to obtain. Following on from the music competition last week, here is another reminder of the extraordinary quality of the music in this school.

This quality of music could not be achieved without our dedicated group of peripatetic music staff who visit the school week in week out. They are very much part of the fabric of our school and their lessons are often taught on landings and in corridors given the huge number of lessons that occur. One of the advantages of this is that one often hears and sees musicians playing and I am always struck by the care and rigour with which our peris teach. As it happens another advantage of our setup is that the boys are so used to playing in public. This is part of the reason that they are such natural performers. At any rate I wanted to thank publicly our exceptional peris who bring so much to the pupils and to the School.

It is now less than two weeks before the Worcester choir is heading out to Normandy to sing at Bayeux Cathedral and at the Commonwealth Cemetery in the same town. It is a huge honour to have been asked. In the last three years the choirs that have sung there are King's Cambridge, St John's Cambridge and Hereford Cathedral, three of the finest choirs in the world. I am certain our boys will acquit themselves well. I also know how very moving it will be. It is perhaps worth reflecting that in order to have fought at D Day someone would now have to be 99 years old. As such, the number of veterans present will be small but we know that some will be there. But for obvious reasons, there will not be many more years where that will be the case. I am certain that our boys will remember the occasion for the rest of their lives.

It was delightful to see so many of you at the fun run this afternoon. Coming after the hugely successful swimming gala earlier in the week, it capped off a superb week of colourful sporting entertainment. Parents were able to obtain a drink from the Pavilion and many were able to see inside it. Already one can see the huge benefits which the building is bringing.

This week I did a large number of tours with prospective parents. What particularly struck me going round the School was the energy displayed by both pupils and staff, and the quality of the manners shown by our pupils. Both of these qualities were picked up by the parents being shown round. I find these tours immensely energising and I am really very proud of our school.

But of course, working in a school, one can never rest on one's laurels and there is always something or someone to put you in your place! I was in the Nursery this morning. As I appeared, I was greeted in the normal way by a charge of excited pupils – "Mr Murraray!" Having been shown the royal capes that were going to be worn later in the day at the fun run, I went on a walkabout. I approached one of the pupils and started to ask her a question. "Shoosh!" she said, "I'm talking to my friend!" Such dedication to one's friends is admirable and it is always good to be reminded that it's rude to interrupt! Schools are places of learning – for all of us!
Have a happy half term!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

School Calendar

School Diary: Monday 2nd June - Sunday 8th June

MONDAY 2

TUESDAY 3

2.30: U9 Cricket v Oratory Prep (Away)

WEDNESDAY 4

11.00: Worcester Choir depart for Normandy

2.15: U10/U11 Cricket v Chandlings (Away)

2.30: U12 Cricket v Cokethorp (Home)

THURSDAY 5

FRIDAY 6

All day: Pre-Prep visit to Warwick Castle

8.45: Cathedral Assembly - Speaker: The Chaplain

11pm: Worcester Choir return from Normandy

Dates for your diary



Monday 2 June 2025

Blue Blood Pop up Shop

3pm - 5pm

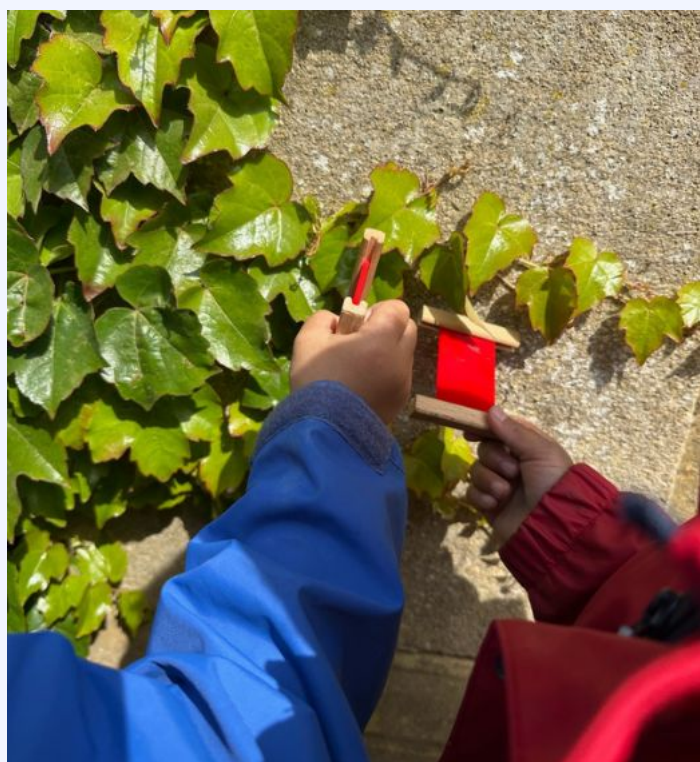
Pop into the school to try on uniform sizes and stock up ready for the year ahead.

Early Years News

Colour Matching through Oxford

The Nursery children were very excited to meet the Chaplain on our walk on Wednesday, especially when we saw she was wearing such a beautiful skirt. The children needed different colours from Colour Box Two to match to the vibrant colours we saw during our trip.

HB



Form 1 News

Active Maths

In Form 1, Maths is always an active affair! We like to get up and about, and act out mathematical concepts with stories, drama, and songs.

This week, the children have been working on Money and Fractions. Lots of brilliant role-play shopkeeping has ensued, and the children have had great fun experimenting with the concept of sharing equally and ensuring symmetry with shapes.

A highlight was playing games of 'Follow the Leader' in which the children were tasked with making sure that their movements and body shapes, as a class, were synchronised, and their balance equally distributed.

TR



Out and About Club

The Out and About gang hit the shops!

Pre-Prep set out on a sunny Friday afternoon for their weekly 'Out and About Club'. Armed with a clipboard and a photo treasure hunt, we explored the Covered Market.

Looking for shop signs and matching them with photos of products, the children worked in small groups with a member of staff, to explore this incredible historic marketplace.



The Covered Market was officially opened on 1st November 1774 and remains in use. The Moo-Moo Ice-Cream and Smoothie Parlour was a particular hit! It's definitely an Oxford location worth exploring at weekends for good food and unique independent retailers. MB



Woodland School

A new addition to our Woodland School

This week at Woodland School, Pre-Prep christened our brand-new teepee, sourced by the marvellous Ms Merriman. Nestled among the trees in the dappled sunshine, the children helped to construct this wonderful new addition to our woodland resources, and enjoyed their snack admiring their handiwork.

We look forward to many more woodland adventures & tasty treats, making the most of this brilliant structure. MB



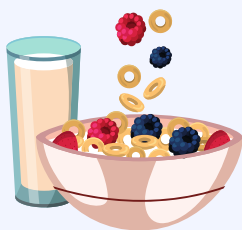
CCCS Noticeboard



Accessing the school playground

We are sorry to inform you that, due to safeguarding requirements, vehicle access to the school playground is no longer permitted. As a result, all access fobs have been deactivated, with the exception of those issued to families of the Cathedral Choristers, and Pembroke Choristers for restricted hours.

We appreciate your understanding and co-operation in helping us maintain a safe environment for all.



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club for the Pre-Prep Children runs daily from 8.00am to 8.15am. If you drop your child to school during this time, please ensure that you accompany them into the Reception classroom and sign them in with a member of staff.



Trinity Music Exams

This term's music exams will take place on Thursday 2nd and Friday 27th June, and the timetable will go up on the music noticeboard (by the Walton Hall) after Half Term. SB

Form 3 News

Measuring up around the classroom

Form 3 have been working hard in their practical Maths lessons this term. We have been revising the properties of 3D shapes with nets and sticks and sweets using the vocabulary 'faces, edges and vertices'. We also identified whether angles are greater than or less than a right angle and used our right angle monster to find different angles in the classroom. We even measured giant angles on the table! SG



Celebrating the Dragon Boat Festival

In Religious Studies this term, we have been learning about differences within Christianity as well as discovering many festivals that are celebrated around the world. On Thursday we were lucky to have a visit from Mrs Xu, our Prep School Mandarin teacher, who taught the boys all about the Dragon Boat Festival, a traditional Chinese festival, which this year will be on 31st May.

She also kindly brought in some typical food eaten at this time called 'zongzi' for the boys to try. Zongzi is a triangular shaped 'packet' of sticky rice usually filled with a variety of fillings and is eaten in memory of the poet Qu Yuan.

On Friday morning we had a wonderful tour of the Cathedral by our Chaplain, The Revd Philippa White. She explained some of the main features you would find in a Christian church such as: the lectern, the pulpit, and the altar. The boys learned that the only feature in the Cathedral that you wouldn't find in any other church was the 'Cathedra', or Bishop's chair!

HB



Form 5 News

Le défilé de mode de la classe 5

Our annual CCCS Fashion Show was a success!

Form 5 modelled their clothing and left the Pre-Prep boys dazzled and wondering why they didn't all have a rapper gold chain, a Hawaiian T-shirt and flower necklace in their wardrobe.

Form 5 could easily go to the next Fashion Week in Paris and pass for real Frenchmen with their beautiful accent and sense of chic!

SL



Form 6 News

Survival skills put to the test in Woodland School

Mrs Price's Form 6 English set has been studying texts and writing about forests and survival this term, so we headed down to the meadows this week for some woodland reading and survival skills, as an end of half term treat and a goodbye to Olav.

The boys munched on their survival snacks (cookies!) whilst we shared a story, and then split into two teams to see who could build the best shelter.

The boys demonstrated terrific teamwork, careful construction and daring design, and impressed with their survival strategies and persuasive pitches, so that the result was a draw, and the promise of a re-match!

EP



Bikeability

CCCS boys pedal their way to travel independence

Nine boys over the age of 11, who had previously attended the Bikeability Courses Levels 1 and 2, took part in the more advanced Bikeability Level 3 course.

We want all boys leaving school to be able to ride on more complex roads and respond confidently when a situation changes, for example, when a vehicle pulls out in front of them.

A big well done to Milan, Kalel, Robin, Ludovico, Patrick, Hugo, Minzi, Max and Ray!
SL



Scholarship Spotlight

On course for greatness

This summer, we bid farewell to our wonderful Form 8 boys as they embark on the next exciting chapter of their journeys.

We are incredibly proud that all of our boys have secured places at outstanding senior schools, with several earning prestigious scholarships.

We will be profiling all of our scholars over the coming weeks. First up, we have Troy, who joined CCCS in our Nursery. It has been a joy to watch him grow from a cheeky toddler into a fine young man.

Troy will be moving on to Harrow School, where he has been awarded a Golf Scholarship - a testament to his talent, dedication, and character.

Troy's talents have seen him take on tournaments both here in the UK and internationally. He recently played in the BB&O Futures Tour, Studley Wood GC, finishing in second position (79 gross). He has also competed in the Junior Asia Tour, Elite Championship in Thailand where he finished in second position. You can watch his post round interview [here](#).



Well done Troy. We look forward to seeing you compete for the coveted green jacket in The Masters!

Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	To Par	Total Gross
1	James Taylor	-6	78
2	Troy Buttmer Frilford Heath (Oxfordshire)	+6	79
3	James Clark	+6	80
4	Jonathan Leonard	+6	80
5	Lawrence Clarke	+6	80
6	John Widdows	+6	80
7	Philip Wilson	+6	80
8	Benjamin Wood	+6	80
9	James Jones	+6	80
10	Charles Morgan	+6	80
11	Paul Bennett	+6	80
12	Olly Brown	+6	80
13	Benjamin Wood	+6	80
14	Benjamin Wood	+6	80
15	James Clark	+6	80
16	John Widdows	+6	80
17	Philip Wilson	+6	80
18	Benjamin Wood	+6	80
19	James Jones	+6	80
20	Charles Morgan	+6	80
21	Paul Bennett	+6	80
22	Olly Brown	+6	80
23	Benjamin Wood	+6	80
24	James Clark	+6	80
25	John Widdows	+6	80
26	Philip Wilson	+6	80
27	Benjamin Wood	+6	80
28	James Jones	+6	80
29	Charles Morgan	+6	80
30	Paul Bennett	+6	80
31	Olly Brown	+6	80
32	Benjamin Wood	+6	80
33	James Clark	+6	80
34	John Widdows	+6	80
35	Philip Wilson	+6	80
36	Benjamin Wood	+6	80
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39	Paul Bennett	+6	80
40	Olly Brown	+6	80
41	Benjamin Wood	+6	80
42	James Clark	+6	80
43	John Widdows	+6	80
44	Philip Wilson	+6	80
45	Benjamin Wood	+6	80
46	James Jones	+6	80
47	Charles Morgan	+6	80
48	Paul Bennett	+6	80
49	Olly Brown	+6	80
50	Benjamin Wood	+6	80

Music News

House Music 2025

Boys in the Prep department have been hard at work preparing for the Music Competition since the first day of term, and it's been wonderful to hear music spilling out of classrooms in the quest for points. How many schools would find their pupils engaged in al fresco trumpet and recorder lessons - given by their peers - at break time? I am so grateful to the boys for throwing themselves into the task with such energy.

House singing rehearsals were directed by the Form 8s, with songs chosen in line with our theme: the eightieth anniversary of the end of World War 2. The conductors' styles differed significantly. Carroll's was the most serious, with heartfelt singing accompanied by well-planned harmony parts performed by older boys. Ambitious Sayers (dubbed 'the Yellow Army') had devised a series of complicated embellishments for their song, including descants and a canon, whilst Wolsey worked hard on clicking and clapping off-beats against their jazzy melody; a surprisingly tricky task for classically-trained young musicians!

Mark Wilderspin, Director of Music at St Paul's School in London, proved a witty and insightful adjudicator at the final, giving really useful advice not just to the finalist instrumentalists but also to the whole school. He praised the wonderful atmosphere, the professional stagecraft of every single finalist, but he was also impressed by the healthy number of 'rare' instruments, which are always in high demand at senior schools. This year's House Singing was unforgettable, with conductors clad in outfits that matched the military theme. There were helmets, flags, and a bandaged soldier who might have been mistaken for a zombie. I suspect the Cathedral may never see anything like it again...

In the end it was Carroll who emerged as overall victors, thanks to a high number of auditions plus individual successes at the final - but I was delighted to hear Sayers and Wolsey boys already plotting their moves for 2026 in order to steal Carroll's crown. Well done to our brilliant instrumental finalists - but a huge THANK YOU must go to all the boys in Prep for making the event so much fun, and to the teaching and music staff for their enthusiasm and support. I can hardly wait until next year! SB



Music News

How to watch the House Music Competition

In case you were unable to make last week's House Music Competition, or wish to re-live the magical afternoon again, you can enjoy at your leisure by clicking on the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bAWpMX_c2T4

Senior Class

Henry (trombone)	Basse-Danse (Warlock)
Andrew (cello)	Menuet I (Bach)
Patrick (oboe)	Pan (Britten)
Hugo (piano)	Minuet in D Major (Mozart)
Ian (double bass)	Gavotte (Bach)
Gordon (piano)	Snowfall (Saino)
Splendour (piano)	Prelude in C Major (Bach)
Trust (flute)	Cantilena (Poulenc)
Russell (cello)	Bourrées I and II (Bach)
Leo (piano)	Les Cyclopes (Rameau)



HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

1.30pm, Friday 16th May 2025
Christ Church Cathedral

Adjudicator: Mark Wilderspin (Director of Music, St Paul's School)

Junior Class (Forms 3 & 4) followed by comments from the adjudicator.

Intermediate Class (Forms 5 & 6) followed by comments from the adjudicator.

Senior Class (Forms 7 & 8) followed by comments from the adjudicator.

House Singing: A Wing and a Prayer (Sayers)
Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy (Wolsey)
Keep the Home Fires Burning (Carroll)

Final remarks from the adjudicator; announcement of Winners and Runners Up from each class, the Winner of the House Singing competition and overall Winning House.



Junior Class

Thomas (piano)	The Return (Burgmuller)
George (oboe)	Jackboots (Gray)
Alexey (piano)	Allegretto (Bartók)
Ntiamoa (horn)	It's Me, O Lord (trad.)
Yang (piano)	Exercise 61 (Czerny)
Andy (violin)	Allegro Moderato (Rieding)
Sebastian (piano)	Railroad Blues (Blackwell)
Jing (viola)	Dedication (Schumann)
Harry (piano)	Cloudscape (McDonagh)
Dave (cello)	Bourrée (Handel)

Intermediate Class

Patrick (piano)	Sonata in F Minor (CPE Bach)
Richard (organ)	Trio in F Minor (Rink)
Jaden (piano)	Andante Moderato (Fauré)
George (piano)	They're Getting Away (Price)
Shaun (violin)	Spring (Vivaldi)
Edward (piano)	Fughetta (Handel)
William (piano)	Waltz (Chopin)
Terry (bass)	Tambourin (Gossec)
John (piano)	Allegro Molto (Kuhlau)
Alexander (piano)	Allegro Assai (Mozart)

Trinity Term: Friends and Family Concert

7pm, Wednesday 2nd July



Our annual Friends and Family concert will take place on the evening of Wednesday 2nd July in the Walton Hall. The aim is to get as many people involved as possible, so do please get planning (and practising). There are only two rules: boys must perform with at least one other person, and they must organise their own performances.

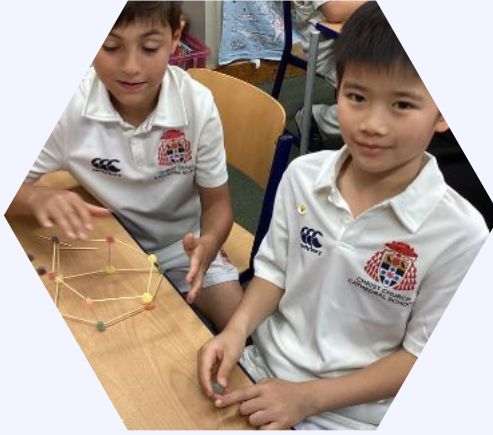
This is the opportunity for:

- Parents to perform with their children
- Pupils to perform duets with each other
- Family ensembles to play together

...and any other combinations you can think of.

Please email **biddell.s@cccs.org** with details if you or your son(s) would like to perform. A sign-up sheet will also be going up in school after Half Term! SB

School Photobook



School Photobook



School Photobook



School Photobook



School Photobook

