



Christ Church Cathedral School News

— 6th June 2025 —



A message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

I am, at present, in the departure lounge of the ferry terminal at Caen, Normandy. We are waiting for the arrival of the ferry to take us back to England. The past three days have been a truly memorable experience for me and overwhelmingly moving.

The Worcester Chapel choir was invited to take part in the celebrations for D-Day - a great honour. We set off on Wednesday morning, crossing the channel, as those who liberated Europe had done 81 years before, from Portsmouth to the Normandy Coast. The ferry was crowded with men in uniforms all sporting medals. When we could no longer see England, we went up to the top deck and performed a ceremony, the voices of the choir mingling with the thrum of the ship's engine and the stiff channel breezes. We threw a wreath overboard to commemorate those who had made this journey and not come back. We all watched as it floated away into the air, only to land in the sea in the middle distance. In a sign of things to come, some reporters from Good Morning Britain filmed the choir singing and interviewed some of the boys. On Thursday morning, the nation woke up to their voices!

On Thursday we took part in a huge service at Bayeux Cathedral in the presence of the British ambassador and many local dignitaries. At the beginning of service the bells of the cathedral were rung out, a deep, body-shaking, haunting sound and one which made singing inside the cathedral difficult. The boys managed to hold their note against the deafening sound. At the end of the service a pipe band from Jedburgh in the Scottish Borders played Amazing Grace, the cathedral echoing to their sound. That service was broadcast by the Daily Express online.

On Friday, we sang in the beautiful cemetery at Bayeux, the largest Commonwealth Cemetery in Normandy. We were surrounded by the graves of 4000 servicemen who had fallen retaking the town.

Two of our number read lessons and we were privileged to have present a number of veterans, all whom were at least 98. At the end of the service the boys were able to meet the Secretary of State For Defence, who was delighted with their performance, and a veteran who took a great deal of time to talk to the boys. He handed them cards which showed a picture of him as a young man of 17 and a half in his smart new uniform. Despite the passing of 81 years, the face was recognisable.

I cannot compliment the boys enough - they sang magnificently and drew the applause of the huge crowd gathered at the cemetery. During the course of the service, they were bathed in hot summer sun one moment, and minutes later rained upon torrentially. And yet they continued doing what they were there to do with complete professionalism. This ceremony was reported on Sky News.

But perhaps the most moving experience was to attend a ceremony in a little village, Sully, a few miles outside Bayeux. There, every year, they remember a British serviceman who died in the village and whose parents asked for him to be buried in the local churchyard. The villagers, probably 20 in number, gather and remember him with full honours. It was a privilege to take part in their service. Two elderly citizens of the village whom we met remembered being liberated. They knew that this had happened when they heard unfamiliar words in the lanes. In particular they remember the names, which they quickly recognised as English ones. They knew then that they were free and have celebrated that moment ever since.

I'm very touched to have been part of the celebrations and we should all be proud of those boys who were involved.

Some of the Worcester boys were not able to come because they were taking Common Entrance. I always find the moment when the boys sit down to start the exams a moving one because it speaks of the end of their time at the school. For many of them it is the end of a time beyond which they cannot remember, some having arrived with us in nursery. There will never be an institution with which they will be more significantly related. This is one of the most humbling aspects of working at CCCS. We will of course miss these boys very much indeed.

So much has been going on at School in the days I have been away, much of which you will be able to read in this newsletter. May I thank my colleagues for all they have done while I have been away.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

School Calendar

School Diary: Monday 9th June - Sunday 15th June

MONDAY 9

TUESDAY 10

All Day: Form 8 Residential to Calshot
1.45 - 4.00: U8/U9 Cricket v Cothill (Home)

WEDNESDAY 11

All Day: Form 8 Residential to Calshot
4.30 - 6.30: Form 4 Tutor Meetings (online)

THURSDAY 12

All Day: Form 8 Residential to Calshot
5.30: Normandy Trip Information Evening (WWH)

FRIDAY 13

All Day: Form 8 Residential to Calshot - returning at 3.45pm
8.45: Cathedral Assembly - Speaker: Mr Damian Ettinger, Headmaster, Cokethorpe School
1.00 - 3.00: F1 and F2 Trip to the Fire Station
3.00-5.30: Art and DT Exhibition (WWH)

SATURDAY 14

8.30: School Sports Day
1.00: Formal opening of the new Pavilion by Mr Jonny Searle, MBE
2.00 - 4.00: Old Boys Cricket Match

Dates for your diary



Tuesday 24th June at 11am

You are warmly invited to celebrate the confirmation of three of our school community at Christ Church Cathedral.

The service will be conducted by Bishop David Jennings.



School Sports Day & more!

Saturday 14th June

9.30am onwards

Merton Field



Following the races the fun continues...



1pm: Grand opening of the new Pavilion by special guest, **Mr Jonny Searle, MBE**, former Olympic gold medallist and Christ Church alumnus.



2pm: We welcome our alumni back to CCCS for the annual Old Boys Cricket Match.

Come along and bring plenty of team spirit and cheer!

Please see letter sent from the school office today for further details.

Early Years News

Learning life skills through play

The Nursery is very fortunate to take part in a Tatty Bumpkin yoga class every week with Miss Hannah. Here is a photo of the children joining in with the 'Giggily, bendy, clever and strong' song.



The children love to work with our activities of Practical Life. These are either set up on trays in the classroom or activities we learn to do all by ourselves. This photo is a tray activity where you open a jar, take out coins, open a purse and put the coins in. All the children were fascinated by a purse and putting money in it.



The children have enjoyed vegetables for snack this week, peeling carrots and then cutting them with a wavy cutter.

We have been introducing extension activities to our sensorial work this week. In the last photo, one of the children is matching the colours in Colour Box 2 to the colours in European flags. The children were very interested in learning the 'names of the flags' or the country they belonged to.

HB



Never Mind The Rain...



...Let's Play Anyway!

When the rain stops us from going on our Woodland Walk, we entertain ourselves building classroom castles!



Pre-Prep visit Warwick Castle

Warwick Castle

Today, the Pre-Prep children set off on an exciting adventure back in time to Warwick Castle. From the moment we arrived, the history came to life - even the Peacocks seemed to herald our arrival as they strutted through the castle grounds, proudly welcoming us to a day full of discovery and fun.



We entered through the towering castle walls and met our guide just outside the grand Great Hall. Our first stop was the Main Tower, where we learned all about the castle's incredible defences. The drawbridge and moat were particularly memorable - though we were surprised to learn that the moat was once filled with waste rather than water, since the castle wasn't near a river! We also discovered what "murder holes" were used for, and quickly agreed we wouldn't want to be stuck underneath one!

Inside, we were shown how children in medieval times would have helped to grind flour for bread. There were also some rather unusual medical treatments - such as drinking one's own wee to check for illness! We learned that lavender was used to help with sleep, mint kept breath fresh, and willow bark helped reduce inflammation.

After our workshop, we explored inside the castle. We were amazed by the collection of armour and weapons on display, everything from horse armour, known as a 'Jack of Plates,' to fearsome swords, pistols, gun-locks, powder flasks, and even blunderbuss guns.

(Con't)

Pre-Prep visit Warwick Castle

The rooms of the castle were just as fascinating. We walked through the green drawing room, Queen Anne's bedroom, the blue boudoir, the armoury passageway, the chapel, and the grand state dining room. Wax figures, beautiful paintings, and historical photographs helped us imagine what life in the castle might have been like hundreds of years ago.

A real highlight was getting to hold a sword and shield ourselves! Mr Robards bravely demonstrated how to defend against sword strikes - expertly holding up a shield and dodging blows from an instructor to the delight of all the children.

We then made our way to watch The Falconer's Quest show, just as the sun came out! We were treated to a thrilling display of birds of prey, including owls and vultures swooping through the sky. One even flew so close it brushed Miss H-W's hair with its wing!

The day ended with a visit to the 'Zog'-themed playground, where everyone had great fun climbing, sliding, and playing together.

It was a truly unforgettable trip, full of learning, laughter, and a little bit of magic. Thank you to Mr Berry for organising the trip - we can't wait for our next adventure!

MH-W



Christ Church Cathedral School

Summer Art and DT

Exhibition

Including "CCCS
PORTRAIT GALLERY"



Friday 13th June

3.00pm – 5.30pm

In the William Walton Hall

Refreshments will be provided

We look forward to welcoming you to our annual Art and DT exhibition next week. The children have created some amazing work this year!

EE

Please see email sent from the office today about parking and timings

Honouring the Heroes of D-Day

Worcester College Chapel Choir perform in Normandy

Our Worcester College Chapel Choristers are currently on their way home from Normandy, having sung in a number of commemorative performances to mark the 81st anniversary of D-Day.

We are incredibly proud of the respect, care and thoughtfulness they have shown during this visit.

An article on their time away will feature in next week's newsletter; in the meantime, here is a snapshot of their whistle-stop trip to Normandy.



The boys were interviewed by ITV News en route to Normandy on Wednesday, and featured on GMB on Thursday! [Watch it here.](#)



Meeting veterans.



Visiting Arromanches Beach.



The choir performed at Bayeux Cathedral at a Service of Thanksgiving. [Watch the stream here.](#)

Enrichment

Eco Club

Eco Club have been busy this week, making SAVE THE PLANET! posters to copy and put up around the school, and making Bug Hotels to attract more insect life to our garden.

We have written an action plan to help us work towards Eco School status and Chase came up with a new slogan: DON'T JUST THINK IT, ACT IT!

EP



Donations Required!

Time for a clear out! If you have branded uniform your child has outgrown, please drop it off with the front office before Sports Day, when the Parents' Association will be running a second hand uniform sale.

Please only donate branded items with the School logo. Unbranded items, such as polo shirts and grey trousers, can be purchased so cheaply nowadays, that we often have piles of stock that never sell. Unbranded clothes can be donated to charity shops or clothing collection bins.



Trinity Term: Friends and Family Concert

Wednesday 2nd July, 7pm



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.

SB

In the Boarding House



Who is our special guest in the Boarding House this week...?

It's Teghena!

This week Form 8 pupil Teghena has been experiencing life as a Boarder. As you can see, he's been making himself at home and very helpful around the house!



Scholarship Spotlight

Head Boy Awarded Prestigious King's Scholarship to Eton College

Could we be any prouder of our Head Boy Trust? We don't think so! Our hearts are bursting with pride as we share that he has been awarded the prestigious King's Scholarship at Eton College.

But that's not all, he has also been awarded a Music Exhibition Scholarship too!

Is there no end to this young man's talents?

Trust started with us in Reception class, and we have had the delight of watching him grow into the wonderful young man he is - polite, friendly and a great leader and example to his fellow classmates.



Having so many talents gives Trust so many options... will we see him take to the stage at the Royal Albert Hall as a leading flautist, or will we see him on the steps of the Headquarters of the United Nations? One thing is for sure, we trust that only great things will follow.

Congratulations Trust on such a formidable achievement!



Sporting Stars

Adam hits it out of the park!



Continuing our articles on the achievements of our students outside school, Adam C was recently selected to represent the Oxford U14 baseball team - despite still only being 11!

It was a baptism of fire, as the opposition was Herts, former national champions at this level. Although the Oxford team came off second best on this occasion, it was a great learning curve with a view to their upcoming fixtures: the classic 'Varsity' match versus Cambridge later this month, followed by intensive training throughout the summer, leading up to representing the county at the National Championships weekend at the England National Baseball Complex in September.

We wish Adam and the rest of the team the best of luck!



School Photobook



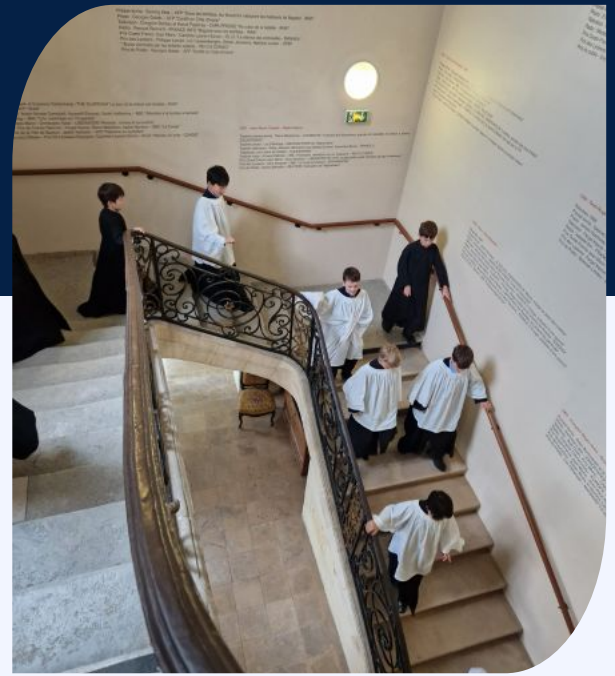
This beautiful portrait was drawn by Harvey's mum (F1), which we feel is too wonderful not to share!



School Photobook



School Photobook



Our boys made friends with these beautiful dogs who belong to a lovely parent from Cokethorpe School who joined us for this week's cricket match.

Parents and family meet-up at the Victoria Arms

On the last day of term, following the fun-run, the PA organised a meet-up at the Victoria Arms for parents, children, friends and family.

On a lovely afternoon, there was a wonderful mix of parents old and new dropping in throughout the afternoon, with over 20 people attending in total.

The PA parent events are always a great way to get to know people in a different environment: do look out soon for news of our (parent-only!) end of year drinks and canapés event on Merton field! The PA

