



Christ Church Cathedral School News

— 13th June 2025 —



A message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

As I write, I am sitting beside the Solent, the sun gleaming on the sparkling waters. In front of me are boats of every description, sailing boats, tankers, ferries rushing across to the Isle of Wight, the sunniest place in England, and a little old coracle. The reason I'm here is that I have travelled down to Calshot, a spit at the bottom of Southampton Water, where our Form 8 boys have gone to an activities centre. Over the past four days, the boys have done a huge number of different things. They have been rock-climbing, skiing, kayaking, cycling on a velodrome and sailing, and they have negotiated a high ropes course. The variety of activities is extraordinary. Some found it very easy - they have done these things before. Others have never attempted any of the activities and so, for them, it was all much harder. But in all cases the boys have thrown themselves into everything and have been wonderfully supportive of one another. One couldn't hope for more.

One of the boys put it rather well. Referring to one of the sessions, he said "Sir, I hugely enjoyed the activity which I had the privilege of partaking in!" I was very impressed by his habitual politeness and by the enthusiasm with which he had approached what he was doing. Even if rather more elegantly expressed than most, his reaction is not atypical of this group. We will miss them very much.

The Cathedral choristers spent a significant amount of this week in the Cathedral practising before, and then taking part in, two BBC recordings. The first will be aired on Radio Three in July. It features a piece of music written for the choir on the 500 anniversary of the foundation of Cardinal College, by the Master of the Kings Music, Errollyn Wallen. When the performance is aired, it will be the first time that this piece of music has ever been heard by anyone, anywhere..

On Wednesday the recording was for Radio Four. Along with the Cathedral Choir and the Frideswide Voices, there was a huge orchestra in place and we were delighted by a succession of pieces written by the former Christ Church chorister and composer, William Walton. I cannot describe how electrifying the session was. The sound of the massed voices and a professional Orchestra playing Walton's music was exhilarating. Every note that was played or sung was utterly life-affirming and I hope that all of you will take the time to listen to both of these recordings, the first that the choir has made in the last 7 years. We will keep you informed. The producer of the programmes spoke to us beforehand. He mentioned, quite calmly that the audiences for the programmes will be in the order of two million. No pressure then!

No sooner had I got back into the playground from the Solent when I saw huge crowds spilling out of the Walton Hall. Inside was a wonderfully colourful art exhibition and I'm delighted that so many came to see it. There was so much variety and inventiveness on show. I was particularly struck by the portraits, so many of which were particularly characterful – inevitable I suppose when one considers our boys! May I thank Mrs Elias and Mr Bagnall for all their hard work in mounting such a mouth-watering feast and for inspiring the pupils to produce such lovely work.

Exams have now been done and three busy weeks remain. I'm very much looking forward to seeing you all at the events still to come - the Friends and Family concert, Macbeth on the Meadows, Enterprise Day and, of course, Speech Day amongst other things. Who wouldn't want to be in Oxford and indeed at CCCS at this time of year!

And it all starts tomorrow with Sports Day. The weather is set fair and we have a Pavilion to open. As the great 19th century English poet Robert Browning wrote: "God's in his heaven; all's right with the world!"

Mr Murray
Headmaster

School Calendar

School Diary: Monday 16th June - Sunday 22nd June

MONDAY 16

2.30 - 3.30: Worcester Choir Showcase (WWH)

TUESDAY 17

All Day: Form 6 Classics Trip

2.15 - 4.00: U8/U9 Cricket v New College (Home)

7.00 - 9.00: Parents Ticketed Event: Christ Church Garden Tour and Drinks

WEDNESDAY 18

All day: Forms 3 and 4 Residential Trip (PGL)

9.30 - 11.00: Early Years Teddy Bears Picnic in Woodland School

10.00 - 12.00: London Schools Outreach Visit

2.15 - 4.00: U12/U13 (A&B) Cricket v New College (Home/Away)

2.15 - 4.30: U11 (A&B) Cricket v New College (Home/Away)

THURSDAY 19

All day: Forms 3 and 4 Residential Trip (PGL)

FRIDAY 20

All day: Forms 3 and 4 Residential Trip (PGL)

8.45: Cathedral Assembly - Speaker: Mr Michael Windsor, Headmaster, Abingdon School

Dates for your diary



End of Year Parent Drinks

Friday 27th June from 7pm

The PA is organising end of year drinks and canapés for all parents, taking place on Merton Field on Friday 27th June from 7pm. Please save the date - more details to come!





School Sports Day & more!

Saturday 14th June

9.30am onwards

Merton Field



Following the races the fun continues...



1.00pm: 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!

Early Years News

Ladybirds and Lifecycles

The Nursery children have been absorbed this week with the discovery of ladybird larvae in the Nursery garden. It has led to an explosion of exploration looking at the lifecycle of the ladybird. HB



Pre-Prep News

Another rainy day adventure!

As the dark clouds rolled across Oxford, Pre-Prep decided that rather than brave the woods in a thunderstorm, we would head to Christ Church Cathedral to carry out some brass rubbings in the Latin Chapel.

Our friends at the Cathedral kindly closed the area for us, enabling us to take over the floor and explore the amazing patterns, shields and emblems. While happily engrossed in our activity, an old boy of the school from the 1950s noticed us at work, and approached, reminiscing about doing the very same thing many decades ago.

Along with discussing the intricate brass work, we also looked at the wonderful carvings in the stone and wood, and the magnificent stained glass. We all agreed it was a fantastic way to spend a rainy afternoon. MB



Form 1 News

Bonjour Paris!

A group of excited Reception and Form 1 children boarded Eurostar on Thursday morning, tickets, passports and favourite teddy or soft toy in hand, ready for their mini trip to France. Luckily there were no hiccups at the border as all travel documents had been carefully checked and stamped by the guards before departure – phew!



A scramble through the tunnel 'et voilà!' we arrived in Paris! After a sight-seeing trip in a 'Bateau Mouche' along the Seine we split into groups and followed a carousel of activities to learn more about the main sights of Paris. To everyone's delight one of the activities included a visit to a 'boulangerie' and 'café' where the correct order in French was rewarded with a tasty croissant or pain au chocolat as well as a piece of baguette.

But far too soon our trip was over and teddies and children back in the classroom... Au revoir, Paris and Merci beaucoup to all Form 7 Language Ambassadors and to Mrs Balu and Mr Berry who came on the trip and helped with the activities!

AE-W

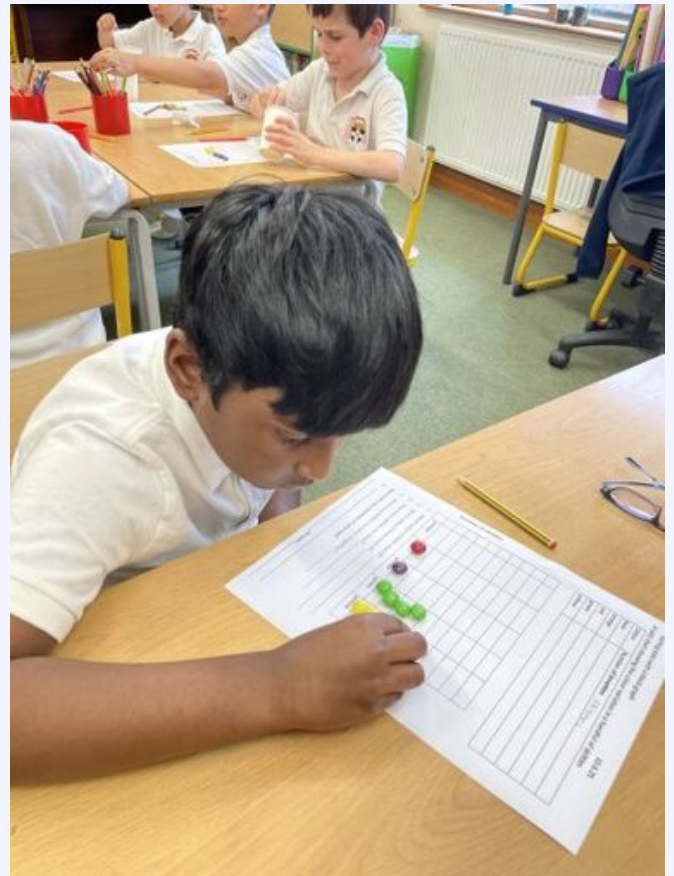


Form 2 News

Skittles have the answer!

In Form 2, we have been learning how to draw and interpret different tables and graphs.

The children took up the challenge of using their own data to draw a bar graph in the form of Skittles. Firstly, they were given 15 Skittles at random. Next, they had to sort them by colour, writing appropriate numbers up the side of their graph. The biggest challenge here was waiting to eat them! Once their graph was filled, they answered questions about the graph, such as which colour was the most or least popular. Once they had finished drawing their graph and answering questions, they were finally able to eat their Skittles. What a delicious way to learn.
M H-W



Form 3 News

Form 3 visit St Ebbe's Church

On Friday morning, Form 3 paid a visit to St. Ebbe's church, just around the corner from our school. The purpose was to compare this Church with Christ Church Cathedral.

The boys had an informative talk with St. Ebbe's minister, Josh Skidmore, who also created a fun treasure hunt/quiz to enable them to learn more about the church.

We also discovered some interesting differences: St. Ebbe's felt more modern and bright inside, with less decoration; the congregation sit on individual chairs in rows, so that they can be moved in order to host community events inside the church, and instead of an organ to accompany the hymns they had a keyboard and drum kit! HB



More from Form 3

From Oxford to ancient Greece

In history this week Form 3 have been learning about education in Ancient Greek times!

The boys discovered the harsh reality for a seven year old boy living in Sparta and had great fun making their own version of an abacus, a device that would have been used for calculating, using lolly sticks, pipe cleaners, and beads. HB



Form 5 News

EpiPen training

This week, Matron Debbie shared an important session focused on EpiPens and their use in emergency situations.

Matron explained that an EpiPen is a life-saving device used to treat severe allergic reactions. These reactions can happen quickly and without warning and knowing how to respond swiftly and calmly in such situations can make all the difference.

During the session, Matron demonstrated how to use an EpiPen safely and effectively.



This lesson wasn't just about medical knowledge - it was about responsibility, awareness, and becoming individuals who look out for others.

The boys left the lesson informed and more empowered to take action in emergency situations. SL

More from Form 5

Incredible India

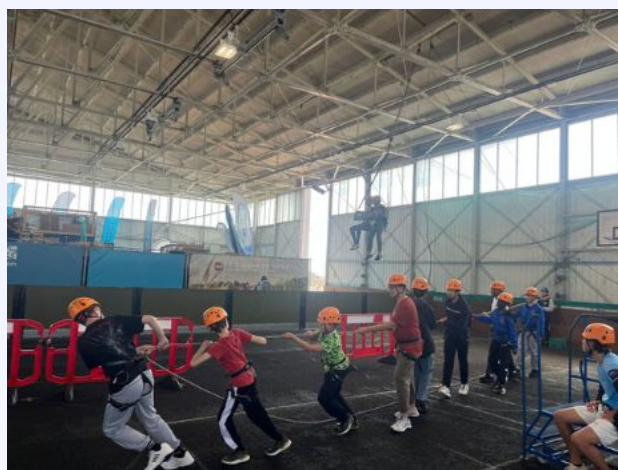
This week in geography, Form 5 have been learning about Indian culture. We were very lucky to have a visit from Mrs Balu, who comes from the Punjab region in northwestern India, and who came to do a Q&A with the boys. The boys asked interesting questions related to Indian art, cuisine, religion and festivals. Mrs Balu also kindly brought in some items for the boys to try on, including a sari, a kurta and an Indian cricket shirt. HB



Form 8 News

Trip to Calshot

The Form 8 boys had an amazing time at Calshot and have returned to CCCS in high spirits. You can see all the action on our Instagram account, or take a sneak peak below...





Immersion Trip to France



Dates: 6th - 10th July 2026

Price: £650

Pupils: Open to boys in Forms 5, 6 and 7.

Deadline: 23/06/25

We are delighted to be launching a full immersion trip to Normandy, France next July. We will be staying at "Le château de la Baudonnière", a 19th century château with 100 acres of woodland, which boasts a lake, orchard, farm and stables.

All activities, visits and tours will be led in French. The pupils will be encouraged to speak French at all times, even during meal times. They will receive worksheets to reinforce the French they have learnt and be provided with key phrases, vocab, exercises and puzzles to complete at the end of each activity.

Please contact **schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk** should you want to book a place for your son on this trip.

SL

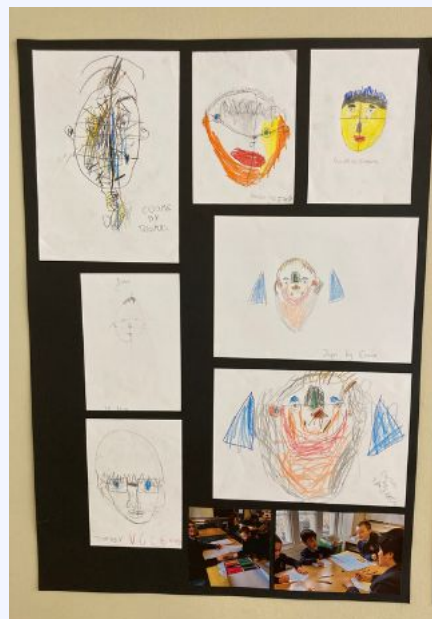
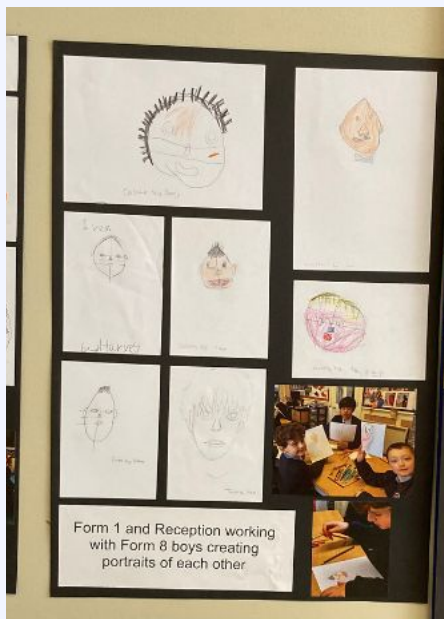
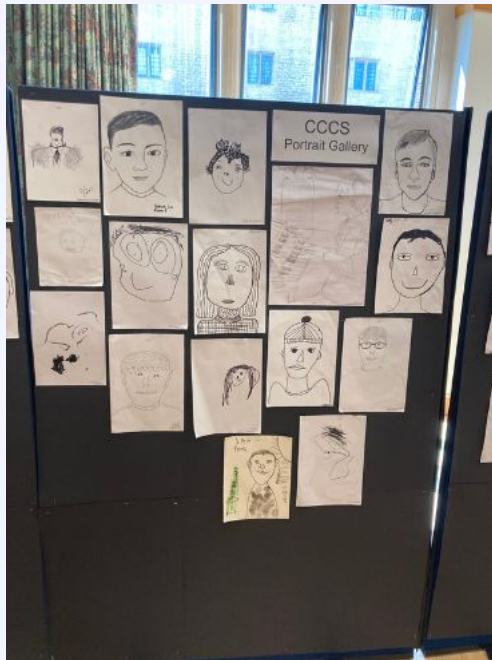
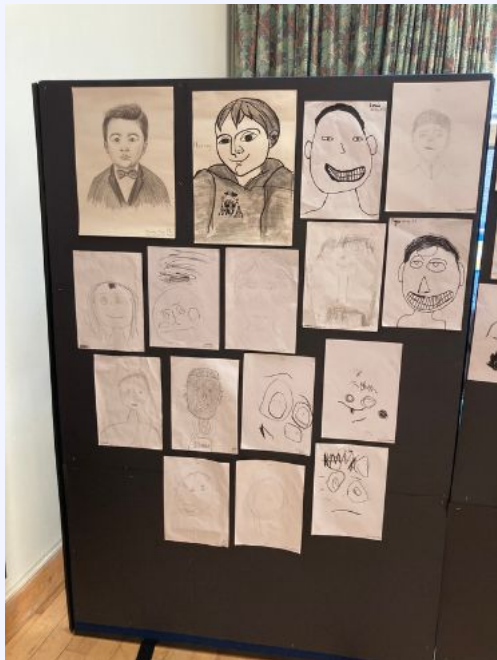
Art Exhibition

Welcome to the gallery



Art Exhibition

Portraits



Classical Association's Mythology Competition

Many positive comments on our entries; and congratulations to Alexander T (5) for winning second place in the KS2 Art category for his enormous Wooden Horse.



Scholarship Spotlight

Splendour by name, splendid by nature

Attracting admiration and attention is exactly what Splendour does. Since joining us in the Prep School, Splendour has impressed everyone with his academic promise and more notably his singing and musical talents.

We are not alone in witnessing his talents as we are delighted to share that Splendour has won a **Music Exhibition Scholarship at Harrow** - what a phenomenal achievement!

As a Cathedral Chorister, Splendour has showcased his talents in some of the most beautiful venues across the globe, in countries such as Sweden and the USA.

We have loved watching Splendour grow into the young man he has become.

Huge congratulations Splendour! We are incredibly proud of you.



Music News

Recording for BBC Radio 4

Our Choristers have spent the last couple of days rehearsing for recording sessions for BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio 4 as part of Christ Church's 500th celebration.



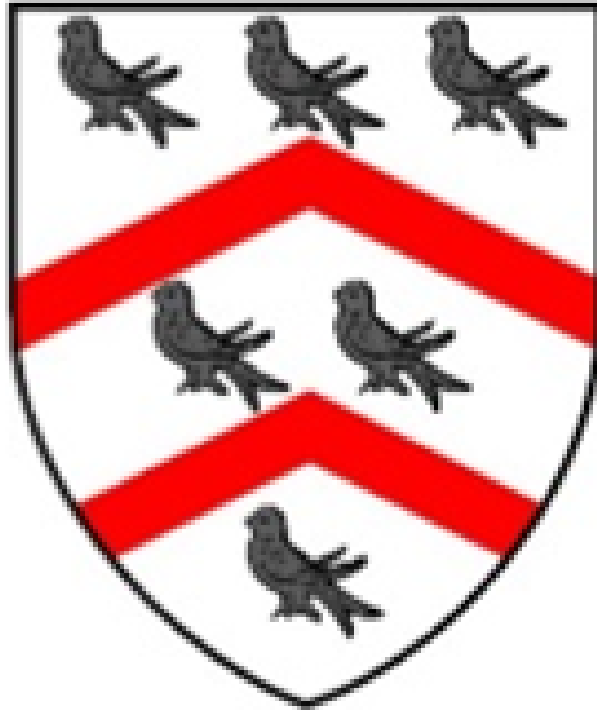
Worcester Chapel Choir

Here are some more photos from our Worcester College Chapel Choir's recent trip to Normandy.



Worcester Showcase 2025

Monday 16th June, Walton Hall, 3-4pm



Parents are warmly invited to a recital of solo songs given by the Worcester Choristers, prepared by singing teacher Mr Hallam.

Refreshments afterwards!

SB

Sporting Stars

Pedal, Swim, Run: Boys raise money by completing triathlon



Last Sunday, four of our Form 7 boys - Milan, Leo, William, and Robin - as well our Form 3 boys, took part in the Knight Frank Schools Triathlon at The Oratory School.

Not only did they complete all three events with great team spirit and determination, but they also surpassed their fundraising goal - achieving 106% of their target!

A huge well done to the boys, and many thanks to all the families and friends who supported them so generously.

YR



School Photobook



School Photobook



School Photobook

