



Christ Church Cathedral School News

— 27th June 2025 —



A message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

Pre-Prep and Nursery came to the Cathedral this morning. We were very fortunate to have preaching today an old friend of the School, The Revd Charlie Kerr, Diocesan chaplaincy advisor. He set the place alight with his lively and entertaining sermon. He started by asking everyone what the most important quality of a friend was. The first answer he got was as good as any and was delivered by one of our very youngest pupils. "Someone who makes you happy!" Well I think one could spend several decades living life and not get so swiftly to the nub of the matter. My favourite answer though was to another question "Who was Jesus's best friend?" It is Petertide when the Church remembers the greatest of all the Apostles, St Peter, Jesus's closest companion and I suspect this was the answer to the question that The Revd Kerr was expecting. However one of the congregation had other ideas – no sooner had the question been asked than a tiny voice echoed round the Cathedral - "Me!". Now there is a response which shows profound theological insight! As the sermon drew to a close, The Revd Kerr flung his jacket off to reveal that he was wearing an L Plate on his back i.e. one of those signs that learner drivers put on the back of their cars. He was, he said, a learner, that there was a great deal more about life that we all needed to understand. We are all learners. This seemed to me to be a very good lesson to remember at the end of a school year. We are all life-time learners!

We have only recently learnt that the Bishop of Oxford has appointed The Revd Philippa White as his personal chaplain. Philippa is, of course, the Cathedral Precentor and our school Chaplain. She has been so for several years now and has made a huge impact on the pupils in the school, speaking to them every week, attending our Friday services week by week, making herself available to boys and staff, providing us with biscuits at moments of particular busyness and preparing a large number of pupils for confirmation and baptism.

Indeed we had a beautiful confirmation service on Tuesday where three boys were confirmed and one baptised. We will miss her warmth and sunny good nature hugely but are delighted for her to have been called to perform such an important role in the diocese.

Next week will be exceptionally busy. I very much hope that you will all be able to attend some of the lovely events planned. On Tuesday afternoon between 2.00 and 3.30 we have an Enterprise Day to which all pupils and parents are invited. Stalls will be set up to enjoy on the fields. All pupils have been plotting ways to make some money which will be donated to charity. On Wednesday we have a fantastic double bill of Macbeth on the fields and the friends and Family concert in the William Walton Hall with time for a picnic in between. These will be delightful occasions (if a play involving a power-hungry murderer and three fearful witches can be described as delightful!) Finally there is Speech Day and the Leavers' concert in the Cathedral on Friday afternoon. It would be wonderful if you could all be there to celebrate another happy year in the School's long history.

Tonight Michal Crooks, the incomparable Chair of the Parents' Association, is hosting an evening drinks on Merton Field at the new Pavilion. I look forward very much to seeing a number of you there. Here indeed is proof that the Pavilion is already proving its worth.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

School Calendar

School Diary: Monday 30th June - Sunday 6th July

MONDAY 30

TUESDAY 1

2.00-3.30: Enterprise Day

WEDNESDAY 2

2.00: Macbeth Performance for school (Merton Field)

5.15: Macbeth Performance for parents (Merton Field)

7.00: Friends and Family Concert (WWH)

THURSDAY 3

9.05: Form 8 Final Assembly

FRIDAY 4

8.45: Cathedral Assembly - Speaker: The Revd Philippa White, Chaplain, followed by Final Assembly of the year

1.15 - 1.45: Pre-Prep Speech Day & Awards

2.00-4.00: Prep School Speech Day & Awards

4.00: Form 8 Leavers' Tea

Dates for your diary



Speech Day

Friday 4th July

Please join us for Speech Day at Christ Church Cathedral next Friday.

An email has been sent out from the School with details of the afternoon. We look forward to seeing you all there.

School Noticeboard

Arrangements for end of term

Please note, that there will be no After School Club or Prep on Friday 4th July. All pupils will be dismissed from the Cathedral after the end of Speech Day.

The minibus will only be running for the Prep School.



Friends and Family Concert: Wednesday 2nd July, 7pm

Please join us for this wonderful evening of music in the Walton Hall on Wednesday, featuring a dizzying array of pieces performed by children and adults from throughout the school community. I'm very grateful to all the boys who have signed up to perform, and to parents who have already written to submit pieces for the programme.

Please email Ms Biddell at biddell.s@cccs.org.uk by 9am on Monday 30th June, if you have a late addition for the concert.



It promises to be a splendid evening and I'm looking forward to seeing lots of you there! SB

Psst, pass it on!

With the summer break coming up, now is the perfect time to clear out the wardrobe of school uniform and sports items that no longer fit your child. There are many children who can make use of the branded uniform, so please do not throw anything away, pass it on to a new home!

What we need:

- Branded jumpers, hoodies, blazers and sports kit
- Cricket whites

All donations are greatly appreciated.



Early Years News

Salut, Lapin Lulu!

The Nursery children have been fortunate to have a French lesson with Madame Williams and Lapin Lulu each Friday. Lapin Lulu is a tiny white rabbit who arrives in a red little suitcase with accompanying props for the story in the lesson. We begin by singing 'Veins ici sur le tapis,' a French version of our 'Come and sit down on the carpet' song. We see if Lapin Lulu is in his suitcase with a 'toc, toc, toc,' 'knock, knock, knock,' and an enthusiastic, 'Bonjour, Lapin Lulu!'

We have favourite stories that we share in French, just like we do in English. We love, 'Oh Maman!' by Mario Ramos and the phrase, 'Oh Maman!' has entered into the Nursery colloquial language, as a 'Oh no' substitute.

We love to sing and dance in our French lessons. Our favourite song is 'Le robot dans mon chateau.' It always has everyone on their feet, dancing and doing the actions like a robot.

The latest book we were introduced to was 'Bonne Nuit Petit Gorille.' We sometimes read this with Miss Helen in English but this time we learnt the names for the animal models in French and we had a turn to imagine what it was like to be Mrs Zoo Keeper waking up next to un Gorille!

Thank you Madame Williams for bringing Lapin Lulu to the Nursery each week with your superb stories, songs and your creativity. HB



Form 1 News

Mapping Oxford from new heights

As part of our Geography topic on 'mapping our local surroundings', Form 1 took a stroll to the top of Westgate, Oxford. From the top level, the children could see all across Oxford, spotting recognisable landmarks such as Christ Church Cathedral, St Aldate's Church, Carfax Tower, Radcliffe Camera, and even our own school on Brewer Street. Well done to our Form 1 cartographers! TR



Form 2 News

Eco warriors in the making

This term, Form 2 has been learning all about animals; from habitats to classification to food chains.

This week, I challenged them to use everything that they have learned, and to put it to creating their own ecosystem. In teams, they decided whether they would have soil, ice or sand as their base. Once they had chosen, they picked out animals and plants that would fit together to create a realistic ecosystem. This brought up some great discussions, such as noting that an ecosystem cannot have both penguins and polar bears, as they live on opposite sides of the world. They also had to be specific in their ecosystems, particularly with soil - is it a forest, a jungle, a woodland, grasslands? How do these different habitats determine which animals and plants would coexist?

Once their ecosystems were built, they presented ideas about how everything connected. In the arctic habitat group, they showed fish in their ecosystem as food for the polar bears. In the woodland habitat group, they pointed out worms that could be eaten by the mice, who would then be eaten by the owl. In the desert habitat, the group added cacti and explained that eating the cacti is how camels get their water. The children had great fun with building these, and I was so impressed by their thoughtful ideas.

MH-W



Bon Appetit

Monday Munchies

Not every school week begins with a crêpe van parked outside, but as the end of term approaches, we want to reward the boys for all their hard work this year. Of course, there was a catch - they had to earn their crêpes by ordering them in French! The children did an amazing job, and undeterred, they quickly asked, "will the van be back tomorrow?" We wish!



Form 3 News

Move up day

What better way is there for Mrs Price to get to know her new class, than by turning their portraits into Roman mosaics for September.



Forms 3 and 4 News

French Games

Forms 3 and 4 spent some time on the Field today, playing French games - coming together with laughter and learning.



Form 4 News

Fairground Attraction

Form 4 has had great fun in Computing making robotic fairground rides. They had to connect electronic components including switches, lights and motors to a small Crumble controller, which they could program using all the skills they have developed this year. They could then incorporate it all into a working model, with the ride progressing at different speeds with a range of flashing lights.



This is the boys' first foray into robotics. They are very much looking forward to moving their programming skills on next year by making robotic cars. AF



Form 5 News

Boys will be Boys!

Form 5 spent Friday afternoon on the Fields, enjoying a French picnic and water fights!



Scholarship Spotlight

Russell, our rising star

Bringing our Scholarship Spotlight Season to a close is Russell, who has won a Music Scholarship at Abingdon School.

Although Russell only started his CCCS journey back in 2023, he has certainly made a lasting impression.

As an accomplished cellist, and Worcester Chapel Chorister, it is no wonder that Abingdon School has recognised his exceptional talent and potential.

Russell, we are all so incredibly proud of you and the kind, caring and talented young man you have become. We look forward to seeing where this new chapter takes you!



Sports News

Bowled over for the summer

Our final cricket fixtures of the season took place on Wednesday away at Bruern Abbey. All the Form 5 and 6 boys were involved and showed amazing effort in hot conditions to enjoy their final school fixture of the year.

Well done to everyone involved.

DP



Enrichment

Life Skills Club

Some distinguished guests joined the Life Skills gang who hosted a beautiful tea party. They made lovely cucumber sandwiches and cream tea scones. As you can see by the clean plates, it was a great success - what a treat!



Architecture Club

All Souls' was our destination for the last of the summer Clubs. Happily a friendly porter admitted our baker's dozen to admire the 15th century Old Quad and to sketch in shaded conviviality Hawksmoor's eye-opening edifices, such as the Codrington Library and the bizarre Gothic-cum-Classical twin towers. A jeweller's microscope helped us see the granular oolites and Jurassic fossils of our warm-coloured Headington Stone. A shame this is the last outing; but boys have lifetimes of Oxford gazing and sketching ahead.

NR



School Photobook



School Photobook



School Photobook



School Photobook



Today, we say farewell to Ana (F1) and Fernando (F2). Although the visit was brief, we hope you had a wonderful time with us, and take home some magical memories from CCCS.

We are all going to miss you x