



Christ Church Cathedral School News

— 12th September 2025 —



Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

One of the great pleasures of my week is to attend Pre-Prep Assembly which occurs every Friday. Most of the assembly is spent celebrating pupils' work and chosen pupils are given certificates for something they have done particularly well during that week. The variety of achievements is very striking but generally the reaction to them on the part of the pupils is the same – delight! In fact these certificates have such cache that today one of the pupils following the announcement of the recipients of the certificates, asked, in a loud voice: “What about me?” Doubtless a certificate will be forthcoming shortly! I am delighted that the certificates are so sought after!

This week the assembly concluded with a moment of high drama. It was time to tell the pupils in Pre-Prep which house they were going to belong to. A brilliant PowerPoint had been prepared. Up came the name of the pupil – we had just enough time to digest who it was when - BHAM! up rose the name of the house and its colour - red for Wolsey, blue for Carroll and yellow for Sayers.

From now on those pupils will always be members of that house and will compete against the other houses in all manner of competitions. In Pre-Prep pupils will earn coloured stars and, at the end of the week, all the coloured stars will be added up and the house with the greatest number of stars will win. The tension is building already....

My experience is that people care very greatly about their houses. In the Prep School, when announcements are made about which house has won, wild cheers erupt in one quarter and shocked silence descends in others. My experience is that people love being part of a grouping like a house. These institutions provoke huge loyalty and cause individuals to feel a sense of community with the other members of the grouping. Furthermore they stimulate serious heights of achievement and I have always been interested in the efforts that people make individually on behalf of their houses or colleges or school.

Our houses are named after three remarkable individuals. Thomas Wolsey was a butcher's son from Ipswich who, during the early Tudor era, rose through natural intelligence and ambition, to be the Chancellor of England (effectively the Prime Minister and chief advisor to king Henry VIII) He was also a Cardinal of the Catholic Church and Archbishop of York amongst many other titles. His energy was prodigious and, in only four years, he had constructed a great deal of Christ Church including Tom Quad and the Great Hall. It's impossible to imagine that a group of buildings so extensive and of such quality could be completed today in so short a time. Lewis Carroll was the Maths tutor at Christ Church – one of the leading mathematicians of his day, in fact. He was also a very fine amateur photographer. But it is for neither of these reasons that he is principally remembered. It was for his extraordinary works of fantasy and philosophy Alice in Wonderland and Alice through the Looking Glass, which are set in a world remarkably similar to Christ Church. Many of his characters are in common parlance even today. Finally Dorothy L Sayers was a writer of Fiction whose principal character Lord Peter Wimsey is one of the most characterful detectives of all time. She also wrote works upon French Literature and theology. Indeed, she was one of the foremost female academics and writers of her time. It is she that is most closely associated with the school itself as she was born in it, her father having been the Headmaster. A blue plaque to her can still be seen on Brewer Street today.

These remarkable figures associated with Christ Church should remind us that our pupils are being educated in an environment which is associated with people who have achieved great things. I hope they will be inspiring examples for our pupils. Watch this space.....

Mr Richard Murray,
Headmaster

School Calendar

School Diary: Sunday 14th Sept - Sunday 21st Sept

SUNDAY 14

6.00: Induction of New Choristers, Christ Church Cathedral - All welcome

MONDAY 15

TUESDAY 16

1.45 - 2.15: Year 7 Team Building Trip

2.30 - 4.30: Rugby v Manor School/Cokethorpe (Away)

WEDNESDAY 17

2.30: U10/U11 Rugby v Chandlings School (Away)

7.30: Parents' Forum - Future Schools (WWH)

THURSDAY 18

9.00 - 2.30: Year 6 Team Building Trip

2.30: U8 Tag Rugby v Manor Prep (Away)

FRIDAY 19

8.45: Cathedral Assembly - Speaker: TBC

9.00 - 2.30: Year 5 Team Building Trip

1.00 - 3.00: Rugby Masterclass at St Edward's School

Upcoming Events



Nursery Stay & Play

Wednesday 1st October

9.30am - 11.00am

Tell your friends; tell your family - registrations are now open for our Stay & Play on 1st October.

Join us for a lovely morning of fun, making friends and discovering why CCCS is the right choice for your child.

Simply [click here](#) to register your place.

School Noticeboard

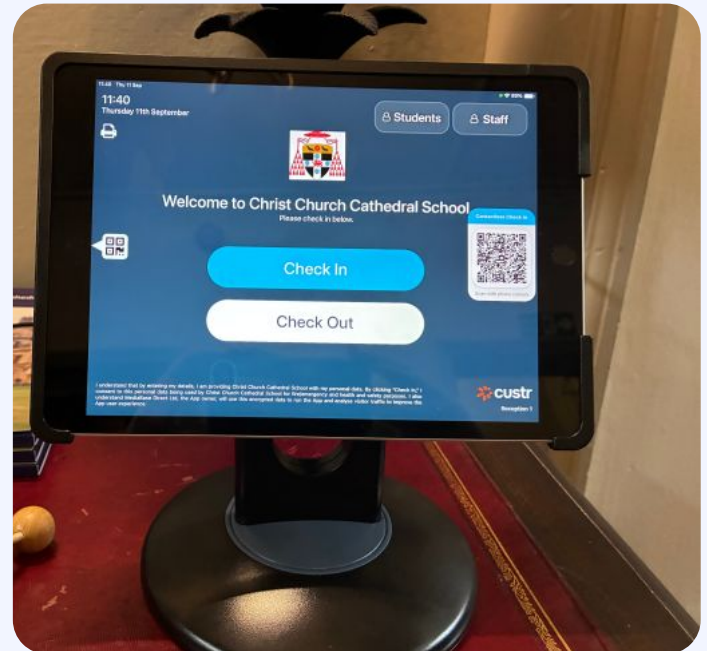
Check out our new Check-In System

We now have a new sign in and sign out system at the school. If you are visiting the school between the hours of 8.30am and 4.10pm, please remember to sign in at the tablet in the Reception area - It's easy, fast and helps to keep everyone safe.

How it works

- Click the 'Check In' button
- Type in your full name
- Select how you travelled to the school
- Type in the name of the person you are visiting
- Your visitors badge will be printed

If you are here to visit with a member of staff, please take a seat and wait to be collected for your meeting.



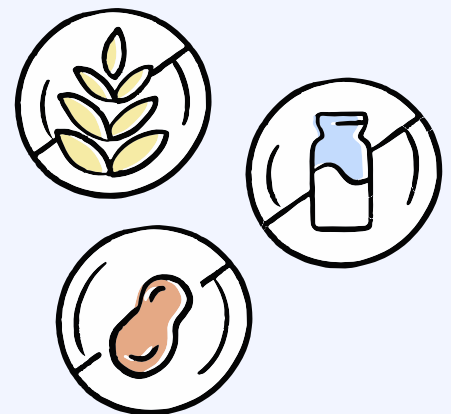
Reminder: No outside food to brought into school

Please may we remind families that we are a Nut-Free School. Several pupils have food allergies, and we want to ensure that everyone feels safe and comfortable at school.

If you have prepared a snack for your child at the end of the day, please wait until you have left the school grounds before giving it to them.

If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday with a sweet treat, you can order a cake by emailing our [School Secretary](#) or Chef, [Peter Kilby](#).

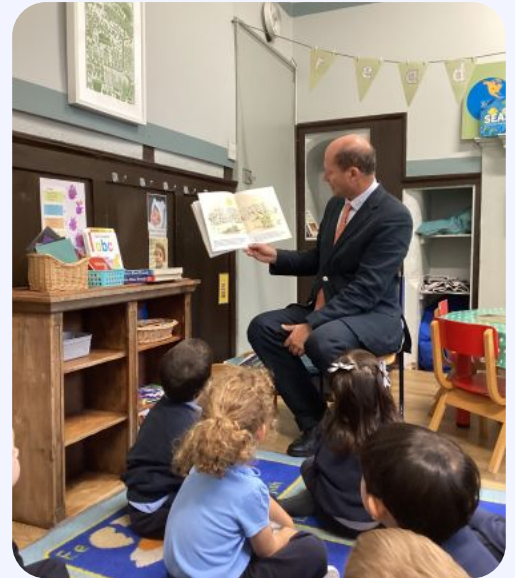
Thank you for your support in keeping our community safe.



Early Years News

Once upon a time in the Nursery...

As the term begins to settle, we quickly find routine to our days, especially in the Nursery. It was lovely to see Mr Murray on Wednesday, who came and read with the children, sharing two favourites, 'Hairy McClary from Donaldson's Dairy,' and 'Harry by the Sea.' Yes, he read them two stories!



The children are establishing new routines in their daily commute to school and we often see the children playing games, internalising new experiences. This conversation and photograph below is from two children in Upper Nursery.

'Let's go to the bus.'

'Come on baby sit here.'

'This is school. Here we are.'

The girls run across the garden with their dinosaur children.

'Here we are.'

'Ring the bell.'

'Bye, you're going to be okay. I'll come back soon. You're going to be okay with Miss Rebecca.'

HB



Woodland School

Bringing the outdoors indoors

On Thursday the weather could not make up its mind, and with bright sunshine one minute and thunderstorms and torrential rain the next, we decided to stay inside and explore Woodland crafts. The children made their own conker spiders. See some examples of our new arachnid friends! MB



Form 1 News

F1 Everyday Heroes

This week, Form 1 started our 'Superheroes' topic. The children learnt about 'Everyday heroes' who keep us safe and help people and animals in our community. We had great fun dressing up and role-playing emergency scenarios requiring help from our Form 1 Heroes. Mr Robards was rather unoriginally dressed up as a teacher! I shall be working on my super speed, super strength, and flying skills over the weekend! Now, where's that cape?!

TR



Invitation - Future Schools Forum

Join us at the Future Schools Forum

You're invited to join us on **Wednesday 17th September at 7.30pm** in the William Walton Hall to find out about the next steps for your son on leaving CCCS.

Most Independent Schools select boys for Year 9 during Year 6 and therefore parents need to start thinking about options while in Year 5.

Come and find out about some of the schools you may want to look at and the things you might need to consider when making your choice.

Although this event is aimed at Year 5, parents in other year groups are very welcome to join us.
AF



French News

Finding news ways to revise

Oh the joy of revising French irregular verbs....Playing dominoes, matching up the French and its translation did help us a lot this week!

SL



Communicate with Confidence Holiday Workshop

Age: 10 - 15
years old

27th October 2025

FIRST IMPRESSIONS & CONFIDENCE
IN COMMUNICATION

What's Included?

- Learn how to make strong first impressions
- Show confident body language and speak clearly
- Manage nerves under pressure
- Practice common interview questions

Venue: Christ Church Cathedral
School

Time: 9.30am - 3.30pm

Fees: £140 (inclusive of VAT)

REGISTER NOW



info@audace-oxbridge.com



Enrichment

Making the most of Oxford

The Making the most of Oxford enrichment group explored the old walls and towers of Oxford in the sunshine, climbing the 99 steps of Carfax Tower, part of the original city church of St Martin's, and then discovered the oldest room in Oxford, at the base of the tower of St Michael's of the North Wall, now the city church.

Thank you to the Rev. Buckley who very kindly unlocked the oldest room especially for us. It was a fascinating trip and a wonderful start to the term!

EP



Get Involved!

Real Tennis Club - Registration Open

Start Date: Monday 15th September Open to boys in Forms 5 upwards

We are hoping to start up our Real Tennis sessions from Monday 15 September.

The sessions take place each Monday from 4.30pm - 5.30pm (the boys usually get back to CCCS c.1740).

The coach has requested that we open this activity for boys from Form 5 upwards. If you are interested in your son taking part in this unique sport, please contact Mr Robson via email (robson.j@cccs.org.uk). Cost of the sessions depends on numbers, so if you are interested, please get in touch over the weekend and we will have an idea about cost per person on Monday morning.

JR



Bikeability Course

We are really happy to offer the Bikeability course, Levels 1 & 2, to our boys again this year. It's a relief to know that soon, they will be more road aware and much safer on the roads! The course is open to boys over the age of 9. Please remember that all children cycling to school must be wearing a helmet and a Hi-Vis jacket. Don't forget to check their lights are working before it gets dark! SL



School Photobook



School Photobook



Photograph Permissions

If you have not yet completed the Photo Permission Consent Form, please remember to do so and return it to our Registrar, Lisa Johnson asap.

Drive Into Learning: Cars & Car Production

Age: 11 &
above

23 October 2025

FROM ASSEMBLY LINE TO THE FUTURE OF DRIVE

Discover the story, science, and future of cars plus experience a behind-the-scenes **factory tour** in this special one-day introductory workshop!

What's Included?

- From the Model T to modern marvels.
- How Cars Are Made – Assembly lines, robotics, and materials.
- The Science of Cars – Engines, and mechanics explained.
- Cars & the Environment

Venue: Christ Church Cathedral School
with trip to factory

Time: 9.30am - 3.30pm

Fees: £175

REGISTER NOW



info@audace-oxbridge.com

