



Christ Church Cathedral School News

— 14th November 2025 —



Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

In the Cathedral today we had the pleasure to listen to The Revd Kirsty Borthwick who is the College Chaplain at Christ Church, with pastoral responsibility for the undergraduates, other students and staff. Almost every college in Oxford has a chaplain and Christ Church is no exception, despite all the many other priests in the Cathedral. The Revd Borthwick spoke to us about St Martin of Tours who famously showed compassion to a beggar by cutting his military cloak in half in order that the beggar might shelter from the bad weather. The cloak represented St Martin's status as a high-ranking soldier and so its destruction was an important symbol of his putting compassion before status. In order to illustrate this story she asked me to pass over my gown – which I did willingly, not knowing the story she was about to use it to illustrate. I have to confess I grew nervous about the implications of the story as she began to tell it, my gown firmly in her hands. Fortunately for me she handed it back in tact, before I had to make a decision about whether I could manage without it or indeed have to wear only half of it in the future. It is always easier to approve of these parables or illustrations from the lives of saints if one is not called to make the same sacrifice oneself!

During the course of her talk she mentioned that our new school chaplain is to be installed tomorrow at Evensong. The Revd Catherine Cleghorn who will join the Cathedral Staff as the Succentor, the person responsible for singing the services, will also have the school chaplaincy as her direct responsibility. She has been working in the North West where much of her work has been in schools. It will be wonderful to get to know her and she will be coming to our cathedral services on Fridays.

On Tuesday the whole school took part in our annual ceremony of remembrance. We had two trumpeters who played exquisitely both the Last Post and Reveille and the names of the boys from the School who had died in the two world wars was read out perfectly by the Heads of Houses. I was again struck by how attentive our pupils, including those in Nursery, were on this occasion. As an adult, one cannot expect young children to understand the full significance of this event or indeed about everything about which they are taught, but it seems to me to be vital that this does not prevent us from observing such important occasions or indeed placing expectations upon pupils about ways of behaving. Young people are much more capable of concentration and of understanding than they are often given credit for and they learn so much from understanding that certain things, even if not fully understood, are important. Some things are still sacred and we must not allow young people to appreciate that.

It was lovely to see a number of senior schools visiting us on Thursday night. Many parents and pupils found time to talk to the representatives of those schools, the boys particularly enjoying some of the merchandise on offer. I was delighted that every single person there complimented me on the boys they had met, upon their openness, inquisitiveness and charm. It's worth remembering that these people see countless children from prep schools all the time. I was very proud to hear this, and it will have given them a very good impression of the School to those senior schools whom we feed.

On Thursday I found my tick off sheet to be completely inadequate. There were many more names arriving at school than had been put down on the list. This rather unusual quantity was the result of the fact that the Pre-Prep were visited by medical students from the JR who had set up a Teddy Bears hospital to which the pupils of Pre-Prep had been invited to bring any of their cuddly friends who were unwell. From bags were produced rabbits with droopy ears, bears whose legs were full of aches and pains and others whose fur was thinning, a condition with which I had some sympathy. By the end of the day the general health of the Oxford population of furry creatures was considerably improved!

Mr Richard Murray,
Headmaster

School Contacts

School Office - Tel: **01865 242 561** (8am - 5pm) Email: schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk
Prep - **07719 109 433** (After 5pm and/or collecting your child from Prep and unable to park)
Minibus on the North Oxford route with Mr Mirko - **07736 148199**
Minibus on the East Oxford route with Mr Quen - **07346 224937**

School Calendar

Monday 17th November - Sunday 23rd November

EXAM WEEK - FORMS 5 TO 8

MONDAY 17

TUESDAY 18

2.30 - 4.30: U8/U9 Rugby v The Oratory (Away)

WEDNESDAY 19

2.30 - 4.00: U12/U13 Rugby v Kitebrook - (Home)

2.30 - 4.00: U10/U11 Rugby v Manor Prep - (Away)

THURSDAY 20

FRIDAY 21

8.45: Cathedral Assembly Speaker: The Revd Marcus Green, Chaplain, Worcester College, Oxford

8.30-10.00: Sibling Social

12.15 - 2.30: Reception and Form 1 visit to the Ashmolean

SATURDAY 22

10.00 - 12.00: Orchestra Workshop with Nicholas Cleobury

Upcoming Events



Forms 3 and 4 Performance

Wednesday 25th November

2.30pm - 3.30pm

William Walton Hall

The boys cannot wait to show you what they have in store for this performance, so please do save the date!



Christ Church Picture Gallery Tour

Wednesday 26th November

6.00pm - 7.30pm

Christ Church

£12.00 per ticket

Start the festive season early and join us for a private tour of The Picture Gallery, Christ Church.

Enjoy a child-free evening with a drinks reception, stunning art pieces and good company.

Tickets are priced at £12.00.

To book, simply email

messenger.m@cccs.org.uk



Pre-Prep Christingle Service

Friday 28th November

8.30am - 9.30am

Christ Church Cathedral

The annual Christingle Service is fast approaching and you are warmly invited to join us at the cathedral for this very special service with the Pre-Prep School.

Save the Date

Sibling Social

Calling all little brothers and sisters... you are invited to our Sibling Social. Come for coffee and cake with other CCCS mums and dads who have 0-3 year olds (bumps are also welcome!). This is a chance for you to connect with other parents from the school, while the children chatter, crawl or roll in our new Library. Refreshments will be provided for parents and children. Please let the Registrar, Mrs Johnson, know if you would like to attend.

registrar@cccs.org.uk



Second Hand Uniform Sale

Date: TBC

We are collecting donations of any old uniform that no longer fits your child. Please feel free to donate items including blazers, jumpers, hoodies, shirts and sports kit items. Any donations will be greatly received in the School Office.





**CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL**

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Friday 5th December

4.30pm - 6.00pm

Food, hot chocolate and mulled wine will be available
There will be a fire pit with marshmallows for toasting

Glow sticks to buy

Several game stalls run by the PA and Forms

The legendary CCCS Hamper raffle

Bottle Tombola

Christmas Tree Parade - Each form will be decorating a tree in a
different style and colour, these will be displayed in the small
playground



Parking will be available on the Broad Walk.

After School Clubs

After School Club Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3.30 - 4.15: Chess Club, open to Form 2	4.15 - 5.00: Squash, open to Forms 5-8	3.30 - 4.15: Pre-Prep Mandarin Club, open to Rec - F2	4.15 - 5.00: Mandarin Club, open to F5 - F8	4.15 - 5.00: Greek Club, open to Forms 7-8
4.15 - 5.00: Football, open to Forms 3-8	4.15 - 5.00: Multi Sports Club, open to Rec - F4	4.15 - 5.00: Mandarin Club, open to F3 and F4		
4.15 - 5.45: Real Tennis	4.15 - 5.00: Chess Club, open to F3 - F6			

To sign your child up for a club, please email schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk with your child's name and form, the name of the club they want to join and the day.

After School Care Corner

We welcomed a very special visitor in After School Club this week...Zeus! Thank you to Mrs Murphy for bringing him in to meet us!



Remembrance Day at CCCS

Honouring the heroes

In Reception this week, we explored a variety of activities focusing on Remembrance Day. This included number sequencing, fine motor and cutting practice and exploring different types of media.

The children especially enjoyed using watercolours. We introduce the class to the importance of keeping the pallet and water clean to achieve great results. We also watched footage from services of remembrance from around the globe including King Charles at the Cenotaph in London on Sunday.

MB



Last Sunday, our Choristers performed at the Remembrance Service at the Cathedral.

On Tuesday, the whole School gathered in the Playground for an Act of Remembrance. Luqman, Eaton and Matthew read out loud the names of our Old Boys - former pupils who lost their lives in combat. This was followed by a poignant rendition of The Last Post, beautifully played by George and Robin.

Well done to all the boys who took part in the service and to all of the other children for showing such great stillness and respect.

You can watch George and Robin's touching tribute [here](#).



Parent Pastrol Seminar

Parent Pastoral Seminar

On Monday, the school held its very first Parental Pastoral Seminar. This was based around the topic of Neurodiversity and involved a fantastic presentation and question and answer session from Madga Bouwman, a specialist at the Oxford Neurodiversity Clinic. The session was well attended with over 20 sets of parents, staff and governors of the school - Thank you to everyone who attended.

Magda has given a summary of her talk below and has said if anyone wishes to get in touch about assessment or informal chat, she would be very happy to facilitate this. We have added her contact details below.

- Autism and ADHD are much more complex conditions than most people think they are, with many nuanced finer aspects to them.
- These two conditions often overlap or co-exist with one another, and/or with other neurodevelopmental conditions such as dyslexia or tic disorders.
- Girls present differently to boys often with more masking, but boys are also good at compensating/masking, often related to higher intellect.
- Traits may be more apparent to others, due to parents' tendency to normalise. This is a natural thing for a parent to do.
- Autism still has more stigmas than ADHD, but there is an importance of being open to it, for the young person's benefit.
- The value of the young person being informed of having autism and/or ADHD, and depending on age, using simple terms, and emphasising positives next to the challenges. Positives often include natural skills and talents, such as in sport, performance arts such as acting and the music industry, medicine, architecture, IT etc.
- There is still a lot of ongoing research being done on both autism and ADHD to help in understanding it better.

Oxford Neurodiversity clinic, offers a free of charge 30 minute zoom call, (no strings attached), for parents who are unsure of either autism and/or ADHD being present.

A 10% reduction for anyone who books an assessment by the end of this year. This year is fully booked but still availability in January/February.

Enquiries@oxfordneurodiversity.com

NH

Our next seminar will take place on **Monday 26th January** and the topic is **Screeentime**. We will send out further details nearer the time.

Please email harrison.n@cccs.org.uk to book your place.

Odd Socks Day

Walking all over the bullies, one odd sock at a time

Our Pre-Prep and Nursery settings were alive with colour and activities for 'Anti-Bullying Week'. Not only did all the children and teachers dress up in a fabulous array of mismatching socks to represent our wonderful differences, but we enjoyed singing and dancing to songs by 'Andy and the Odd Socks', that taught the children all about showing one another respect and using our superpowers for good. During the course of the week, we have shared countless stories about how to be kind and thoughtful, and to embrace our uniqueness and the individuality of others. Some favourites included: The Smeds and the Smoos; Giraffes Can't Dance; Kindness is my Superpower; and the Big Bright Feelings Series by Tom Fletcher. A focus text for Pre-Prep was 'Have you filled a bucket today?' by Caroline McCloud. The concept is that by filling up other people's buckets with kind acts, we fill up our own bucket and feel happy. The children decorated their own unique buckets, complete with colourful stars and hearts, and we will be adding these to a 'Kindness Tree'. Kindness is a core value for our children and staff at CCCS, and I cannot wait to see what 'random acts of kindness' the children will bestow upon their families and friends this weekend

TR



Nursery News

It's all go over in Nursery

Nursery have been very busy bees this week!

On Wednesday, we welcomed lots of new friends at our Stay & Play event. This was a great success and we look forward to seeing the families again soon.

Here is a glimmer of what we have been up to this week including Teddy Bear Hospital with students from the John Radcliffe Hospital, learning about the body, preparing for our Nativity and enjoying lunch with friends.

HB



Staff Vacancies

We have a couple of vacancies available at the School, including one in Nursery, and would welcome applications from the CCCS School Community. The roles can be found [here](#). If you know anyone who may be suitable, please ask them to get in touch.

Reception and Form 1 News

Carrying on the bonfire festivities

In celebration of bonfire night, we explored matters of state and changing properties with a very simple cooking activity in Reception and Form 1.

The children closely observed how chocolate can change from a solid state to a delicious molten mass. We also talked about kitchen hygiene and safety and how we always wash our hands before cooking and the dangers of boiling water. We made 'sparklers' by dipping breadsticks in the melted chocolate and decorating them with sprinkles. A much enjoyed tasty treat!

MB



Forms 1 and 2 News

Mini French trip to 'Paul' - Café, Boulangerie, Pâtisserie'

Form One and Form Two set off straight after registration on Thursday morning full of excited anticipation to practise their French on the big stage at 'Café Paul', only a short walk away in the High Street. 'Bonjour! Je voudrais un chocolat chaud et un croissant svp.....' The French slipped beautifully off their tongues and the children were intrigued when their hot chocolate arrived, thick, dark and creamy. Besides, there wasn't just a croissant but a pain au chocolat to eat as well! Bravo, Form 1 and Form 2. Everybody agreed that it had been a happy and successful morning.

AE-W



Form 2 News

Form 2's Victorian Experience Day

This week, Form 2 enjoyed a fascinating trip to the Oxfordshire Museum for a Victorian Experience Day. The children stepped back in time to discover what school life was like over a century ago- and quickly realised it was quite different from today!

The day began with a taste of Victorian classroom rules, where children were expected to sit up straight, hands in laps, and to be “seen and not heard.” Using charcoal, slates and a rag, they took part in an arithmetic lesson, learning that if they had a question, they had to raise their hand and stand up before speaking. Everyone practised solving sums on their slates, just as Victorian pupils once did.

Next came a Victorian handwriting lesson. Using dip pens and ink pots, the children tried their hand at cursive writing. Many thought the elegant loops and curls looked very “arty” — until they heard about some of the strict punishments Victorian pupils faced if they got ink on more than three fingers. These included finger stocks for fidgeters, the dunce hat for anyone who got an answer wrong, and, of course, the dreaded cane. Suddenly, the comforts of a modern classroom seemed very appealing!

Later, the class explored the museum's Victorian exhibits, where they saw a real Penny Farthing bicycle, a beautifully detailed dolls' house, a period-style bathroom and many other fascinating artefacts from the era.

The day ended with a session on Victorian toys, comparing them to the ones we play with today. The children's favourite part was making their own peg dolls, and they also had fun playing with yo-yos, hoops and sticks, spinning tops, and a zoetrope.

MHW

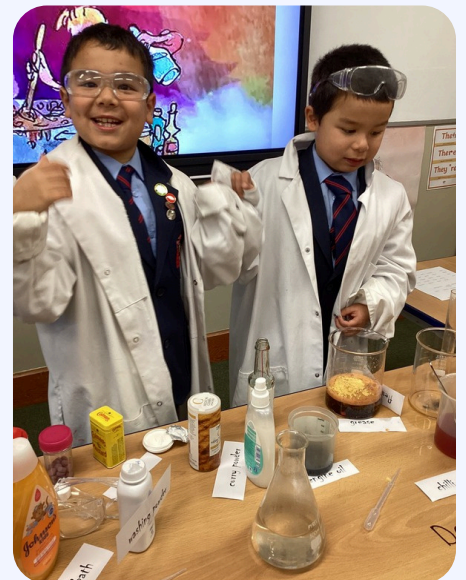


Form 3 News

Getting a taste of George's marvellous medicine

Form 3 have enjoyed an explosive English lesson this week inspired by George's Marvellous Medicine. George Kranky created his own marvellous medicine to deal with his grizzly old grunion of a grandma! You definitely can't make George's medicine at home, so don't even try as it is dangerous! However, Form 3 have created their own potions and have written step by step instructions to follow.

SG



Form 4 News

Race cars at the ready...

The Form 4 boys have finished their Push cars project. Here are our budding designers proudly displaying their work!



Cardinal Scholars at Marlborough

Music and Classics meet in Malborough

On Tuesday the Cardinal Scholars had a day trip to themselves, visiting Marlborough College, the prestigious public school, where they were handsomely hosted by the Music Department. The day began with a masterclass led by Head of Keyboard Claire Toomer in which our pianists worked on repertoire by Scarlatti, Bach and Liszt. The Head of Instrumental Studies taught the boys some fantastic games, which really stretched their musicianship, leading into an improvisation session where everything was taught by ear.

After an excellent lunch in Marlborough's Norwood Hall the boys ventured to the music tech room, where they tried their hands at composing with Logic (aided by samples created from a recording of Hugo's voice). There was just enough time to visit the organ in chapel before joining Marlborough's Director of Chapel Music for singing sessions with the choir and Junior Consort. The whole visit was a brilliant way to stretch the boys musically, as well as giving them a taste of life at Marlborough.

As a coda – a brief tail of prehistory to the trip – we drove past the mystery that is the largest man-made mound in Europe: Silbury Hill. (We had already seen in the College its little brother, the 59-foot Marlborough Mound, which also dates back to the Neolithic.) Finally we had a brief and muddy scamper across a small section of the world's largest prehistoric stone circle, circumscribed by the vast henge of Avebury.

Just a taste; and perhaps in scholarly fashion the boys may encourage their parents to take them back soon to visit properly more of monumentally rich Wiltshire.

SB and NR

Marlborough. Pleasingly they considered our visit worth recording on their website, viz.: [here](#),





INFORMAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2025

William Walton Hall, 4.30pm Wednesday 3rd December



Featuring solos by Leo R, William U, Ludo M-C, Luqman A, Eaton DB, Henry P, Ian Z, Andrew P and Patrick D-D, as well as festive performances by all the school ensembles. Refreshments afterwards.

Please contact schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk to reserve a place!



Thank you!

Oh what a night!

We were delighted to welcome our school community to the Christ Church Fireworks display last Saturday. In previous years, this has been a Cathedral Chorister event and how wonderful it was to see so many people, not only coming along to enjoy the fireworks but also Evensong in the Cathedral beforehand. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back again next year! JR

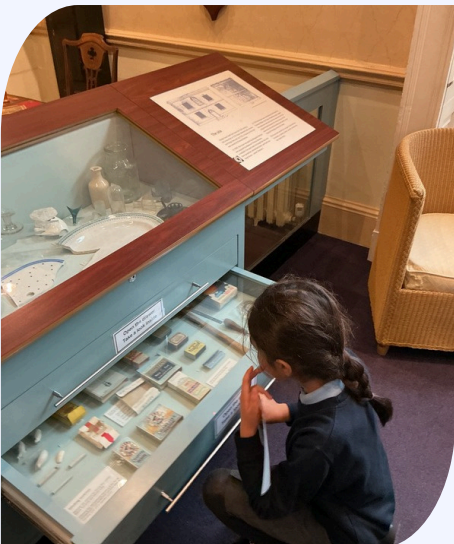
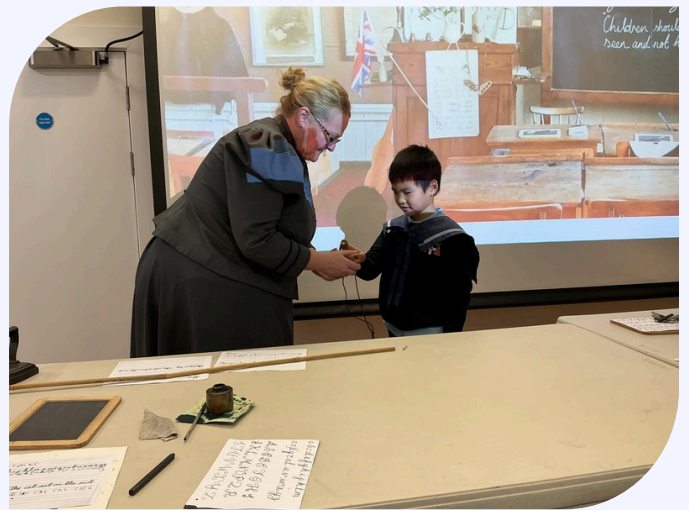
You can relive the highlights [here](#).



School Photobook



School Photobook



School Photobook



School Photobook



Help us keep the school community safe

If your child has an upcoming birthday and would like to celebrate with their CCCS friends, please place a cake order with our Chef, giving at least three days' notice. You can email Chef Peter directly at franks@cccs.org.uk

Please do not bring any outside food into the School.

CHRIST CHURCH

FIVE CENTURIES OF MUSIC | 1525 - 2025

Wednesday 1 October 2025 at 20.00

Christ Church Cathedral

HAYDN THE CREATION

Carolyn Sampson – soprano; William Balkwill – tenor; Thomas Humphreys – bass

Christ Church Cathedral Choir and Frideswide Voices

THE ENGLISH CONCERT conducted by Peter Holder

Thursday 9 October 2025 at 20.00

Christ Church Cathedral

VIOLIN AND PIANO RECITAL

Charlie Lovell-Jones – violin; Julian Chan – piano

Works by Mozart, Walton, Respighi

Thursday 30 October 2025 at 20.00

Christ Church Cathedral

ORGAN RECITAL

Peter Holder

Works by J S Bach, Brahms, Wallen, Swayne, Farrington

Saturday 1 November 2025 at 14.00

Christ Church Upper Library

ERROLLYN WALLEN CBE

Master of the King's Music

in conversation with Dr Leah Broad

Wednesday 19 November 2025 at 20.00

Christ Church Cathedral

ALAMIRE SINGS TAVERNER

directed by David Skinner

Works by John Taverner

Thursday 20 November 2025 at 20.00

Christ Church Cathedral

LITTLE KITCHEN

to include works by

Bobby McFerrin,

Phoebe Bridgers

and João Gilberto

Saturday 22 November 2025 at 20.00

Christ Church Cathedral

DOWLAND LACHRIMAE

Phantasm Viol Consort

Tuesday 25 November 2025 at 18.15

Great Hall, Christ Church

WALTON FAÇADE

conducted by Nicholas Cleobury

performance followed by dinner

**PIANO RECITALS IN
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL**

Tuesday 28 October 2025 at 20.00

LOUISE GUY

Works by Mozart, Schubert/Liszt, Chopin, Liszt

and Louise Guy

Sunday 16 November 2025 at 20.00

JUDITH VALERIE ENGEL

Works by Josepha Aurnhammer,

Maria Theresia von Paradis,

Helene Liebmann and others

Friday 21 November 2025 at 20.00

LIBBY BURGESS

Works by J S Bach, Bach/Busoni,

Clara Schumann, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

and Christ Church composers and visitors

BOOKING INFORMATION

Tickets for all main events starting at £10
available from:



Music at Oxford

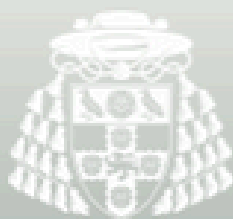
www.musicatoxford.com

Cornelia Norie-Miller Tel: 01865 244 806

boxoffice@musicatoxford.com

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday and Friday
2pm until 5pm

The Upper Library has no step-free access



CHRIST CHURCH

500 YEARS | 1525 - 2025

