



Christ Church Cathedral School News

— 27th February 2026 —



Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

The speaker at Cathedral Assembly today was Susan Wessels, the Second Master of Marlborough College. Before becoming a teacher, Miss Wessels was Captain of the South African Olympic Hockey team, someone then of considerable experience! She took the opportunity to talk to us about the importance of strong women. Women could, she argued, be strong in so many ways – the courage that it took to be a successful hockey player was something that could not be overestimated - but she chose as her reading a single verse from the Old Testament book Micah. It was as follows:

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

Very often, strong women were required to do less dramatic things than Miss Wessels had been able to achieve personally, and she spoke most movingly about her own mother who had quietly encouraged her on a daily basis and who had never pushed her to perform at an elite level in sport. In fact, her quiet encouragement had enabled Wessels to choose this path for herself. She asked us all to think of those women who had the true strength to support us every day, often humbly and justly, as the reading suggested. Very many of the parents afterwards said how moved they had been by her talk.

At coffee, Miss Wessels spoke about the Marlborough entrance procedures. She said that everybody, however well they did on the entrance test, would be offered interviews. Furthermore, the references sent by the Prep Schools would be taken as seriously as the test. To my mind this shows a humane and sensible approach to admissions. As Miss Wessels put it, the test only happens on one day and the pupils will be at Marlborough for five years. No wonder that Marlborough continues to attract so many applicants.

I heard today about the Pre-Prep visit to the Woodland School. Over the past few months, the Woodland School has had a large amount of work done on it by the outstanding gardening team from Christ Church run by the incomparable Steve Howes. Yesterday Steve and some of his staff provided a workshop for the Pre-Prep on habitats and the Pre-Prep children were encouraged to help construct habitats for the animals which will come to live in the wood. The gardeners were so impressed by our pupils that they were all offered jobs on the gardening team of Christ Church. I'm not sure if the Treasury realises how much their salary bill in the gardening department will be increasing in the next few weeks! I also know that Career Development is an inherent part in the PSHE curriculum. We are seeing to this element of the course extremely early.

Another advantage of the Christ Church Cathedral School education is senior school applications. We have just heard back from Radley and St Edward's and in both cases six out of seven of our pupils have been offered places. Both registrars were complimentary about the quality of our pupils - again I wish to thank our outstanding staff for the work they have done to ensure these incomparable results.

As I sit in my study writing this letter, I find myself surrounded completely by music. In one direction, I can hear a Romantic piano piece and above me I can hear a brass instrument - I can't tell whether it's a trombone or a horn (I should probably know) playing a well-known hit from a musical. The blood of the school is Music and, for almost everybody, outstandingly good music is just what happens in a normal day.

I have also found myself today doing a mock interview where we ranged over the differences between PG Woodhouse, Evelyn Waugh and Thomas Hardy, discussing the nature of comedy and tragedy and the tragic flaws of the heroine in Tess of the D'Urbervilles. Just in the same way that playing music seems to be the natural thing to do, so nobody ever questions the importance of or the enjoyment of discussing such matters. Cultures and particularly those in schools, do help to create positive outcomes and, for me, hugely enjoyable conversations.

Mr Richard Murray,
Headmaster

School Contacts

School Office: 01865 242 561 (8am - 5pm)

Prep Line: 07719 109433 (5pm to 6pm)

Mr Mirko Minibus: 07736 148199

Mr Quen Minibus: 07346 224937

School Calendar

Monday 2nd March - Sunday 8th March

MONDAY 2 MARCH

9.00 - 9.45: Form 5 Mock Pre-Tests (Maths)

2.30 - 5.00: U9/U11/U13 Thorngrove prep X-Country relays - Away

6.00 - 7.00pm: Worcester Choir Tour Briefing (WWH)

TUESDAY 3 MARCH

9.00 - 10.25: Form 5 Mock Pre-Tests (Verbal & Non-Verbal)

2.15 - 4.00: U8/U9 Rugby v Cothill (Away)

3.30 - 7.30pm: Form 6 Parents' Evening (Online)

4.15 - 6.46pm: Magdalen College School for Geography Worldwide Quiz

WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH

9.00 - 9.45: Form 5 Mock Pre-Tests (English)

2.30 - 4.00: U10/U11 Football v Dragon - Home

THURSDAY 5 MARCH

World Book Day - Don't forget to don your best World Book Day costume!!

9.15: HPV Catch Up Session (Form 8 Only)

FRIDAY 6 MARCH

8.45 - 9.15: Cathedral Assembly, Speaker - The Headmaster

9.15 - 9.45: All parents are welcome to join us in the Priory Room for coffee following the service

9.00 - 3.30: Form 8 Trip: The National Museum of Computing, Bletchley

Sunday 8 MARCH

11.00 - 3.30: Hilary Play Rehearsal

Upcoming Events



School Open Morning

Thursday 12th March

9.30 - 12.00pm

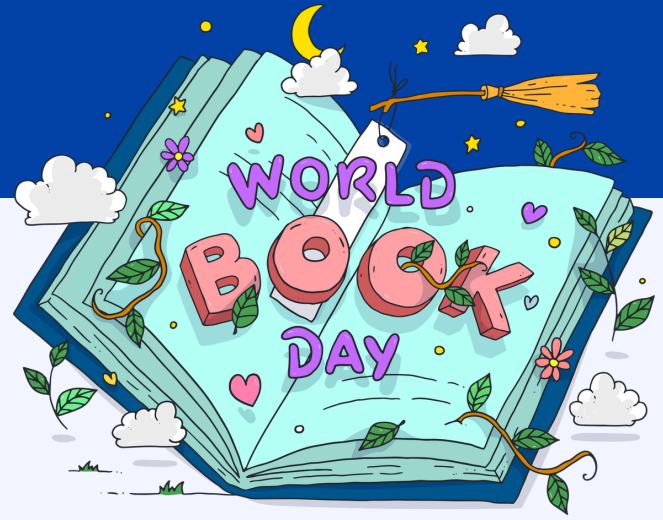
We are excited to open our doors to prospective families looking for a small but mighty school for their child.

This is a great opportunity to see our School in action: Meet our Headmaster, enjoy a tour of the school led by our Form 8 boys (honest to a fault - you'll get the real story!) and spend time with our Senior Management Team. There'll also be a Q&A session where you can ask anything and get all the answers you need before heading out to view the rest of our grounds on Christ Church Meadow.

If you or someone you know would like to visit our School, simply register [here](#).

World Book Day

Thursday 5th March



Just a brief reminder that World Book Day will be on Thursday the 5th March this year.

There will be a variety of activities on this day, and all pupils are welcome to come in the costume of their favourite book character if they pay £1.



World Book Day 2025

After School Clubs

Our After School Clubs have something for everyone!

Whether your child wants to sharpen their skills, discover a new language or simply have fun, our After School Clubs have you covered:



Table Tennis Club



Chess Club



Multi Sports Club



Real Tennis Club



Football Club



Mandarin Club

After School Club Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Mandarin Club (Rec - Form 2) 3.30 - 4.15pm Form 2 Classroom</p>	<p>Multi Sports (Rec - Form 4) 4.15 - 5.00pm School Hall</p>	<p>Mandarin Club (Forms 5-8) 4.15 - 5.00pm Form 4 Classroom</p>	<p>Greek Club (Forms 7-8) 4.15 - 5.00pm</p>
<p>Chess (Form 2) 3.30 - 4.30pm Form 1 Classroom</p>	<p>Chess (Forms 3-6) 4.15 - 5.15pm Darwin Classroom</p>	<p>Table Tennis Club (Forms 5-8) 4.15 - 5.00pm Playground</p>	
<p>Mandarin Club (Forms 3-4) 4.15 - 5.00pm Form 2 Classroom</p>			
<p>Football (Forms 3-8) 4.15 - 5.00pm School Field</p>			
<p>Real Tennis (Forms 3-8) 4.15 - 5.45pm Real Tennis Court</p>			

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

Personal, Social and Health Education at CCCS



PSHE is one of the smallest subjects in terms of the amount of timetabled time but I would argue that it is one of the most important. PSHE is about how we relate to ourselves, to our families and school, and to the wider world. It has a timetabled lesson slot once a week from Form 1 to Form 8 and is always taught by the form teacher, so that he or she understands how the pupils are thinking and feeling and can continue to support them throughout their school life. (There is no need for a specific lesson in Nursery or Reception, as Personal, Social and Emotional Development runs through everything they do.)

PSHE can be quite a difficult subject to explain because it covers so many areas: relationships, health, online safety, finance, careers, sex education and much more. A lot of what we teach is defined by the government and, of course, we want to respond to what the pupils themselves are experiencing and feeling. Fundamentally, we have a topic map showing what will definitely be covered in each year, and teachers supplement that with discussions about things in the news, things which have happened on the playground, and anything else the pupils want to discuss.



The topics of our PSHE curriculum are:

- Michaelmas 1: Wellbeing and Healthy Relationships (including understanding and managing your emotions; mental health; having and maintaining good friendships; and anti-bullying)
- Michaelmas 2: Healthy Choices (including physical safety; healthy living; alcohol, smoking, vaping and drugs; and first aid, medicines and vaccines)
- Hilary 1: Digital Lives (covering a wide range of online safety topics including protecting personal data; when and what is safe to share; finding a balance between online and other activities; healthy relationships online; identifying what is real and what is fake; avoiding scams; echo chambers; misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories; and online wellbeing)
- Hilary 2: Aspiration and Money (including starting to think about what jobs they might like to do in the future, and financial management)
- Trinity 1: My Body and Me, and further Healthy Relationships (including the nature of caring families; challenging negative influences; having control over our bodies; how bodies change during puberty; and from Year 6, sex education)
- Trinity 2: Identity and Community (with a focus on understanding and valuing people who are different, and how we all come together to make communities locally and globally; pupils also learn about the Equality Act, British Values and challenging stereotypes and discrimination)



A large part of PSHE is Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE). The government often talks about this as though it were a separate subject, but its three strands fit into our broader PSHE. We teach about relationships and health throughout the school, with sex education starting in Year 6.

There is new statutory guidance about RSHE coming into force this year, so all schools are being asked to review their policies and lesson resources and to consult with parents, staff and governors before implementing the changes. You will be receiving a letter with our new draft RSHE policy this week. If you would like to make any comments, please let me know by the end of this half term.

Meanwhile, please ask your child what they have been learning in PSHE. They often think deeply about the topics we are covering, and the more families talk about all these issues, the easier it is for the children to grow up as confident, kind and healthy people.

Mrs Anna Fairhurst
Deputy Head (Academic)

Children are using smart devices from a much younger age than ever before. It's why it's essential we talk to our children about how to use them safely. There are so many positive benefits to the new technology at our disposal these days - however there are plenty of downsides too. As a parent, it's important you understand these risks and how you can take steps to protect your family against them.

1 PUT YOURSELF IN CONTROL

Make use of the parental control settings available to you. With most devices, you're able to change the settings to control the content your child has access to. This isn't difficult to do, as you'll often find guidance in the instructions that come with the device. By setting a private pin code on certain devices, you can make sure your child can only access it when you allow it.



2

PROTECTING ANDROID DEVICES



You can set up restricted users on Android tablets through a Google account. Open the settings menu (look for a cog icon) and select the 'Users' option. Here you can add a new restricted user. After setting up a password and username, select which applications you want to restrict access to. On an Android smartphone it's similar, but first select 'Parental Controls' in the play store.

3 PROTECTING APPLE DEVICES



For Apple devices, you can simply visit the preferences/settings menu and within 'General' there is an option for 'Restrictions'. Here you can turn off any applications or features on your child's device that you do not want them to have access to.

4



THINK ABOUT ALL YOUR SMART DEVICES

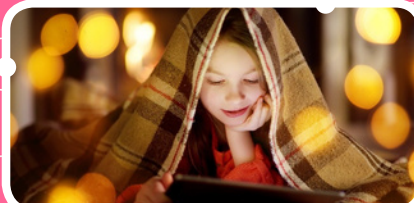
As well as tablets and smartphones, you should think about any device in your home connected to the internet: a games console, a media hub, or a personal computer. In each case you can usually find parental control in the settings. Think carefully about how much access you want to allow your child, especially when it comes to accessing the internet.

5

MAKE SEARCHING MUCH SAFER



Most search engines, such as Google, Bing or Yahoo, have a 'safesearch' setting. You should activate this. Otherwise, it's extremely easy for a seemingly harmless search on the Internet to return unexpected and inappropriate results. Depending on the browser you're using, go to the settings and search for 'safe search'. Make sure you save the change so it defaults each time you open the browser. This will seriously reduce the chances of your child being exposed to something they shouldn't be.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

9 Top Tips To Get Smart About children's devices

6

REGULARLY CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA SETTINGS

Before you allow your child to use social media, you should discuss the dangers with them. You should also make sure you're able to access their profile and privacy settings and check them regularly. The companies behind social media platforms often make privacy changes without making it very obvious to the user, such as Facebook's introduction of facial recognition software.



7

DON'T LET PEOPLE SEE WHERE YOU ARE



Location software sounds useful for seeing where your child is, but it also provides the opportunity for others to locate your child too. For safety, it's a good idea to disable location software on all devices or at least turn it off when it's not required. Also, be mindful of specific apps that record running routes or locations where your child might be playing a game. Talk to your child about why these can be dangerous and how to turn the setting on and off as required.

8 WATCH OUT FOR FAKE PROFILES

Sadly, social media presents an enormous opportunity for the likes of paedophiles to set up fake profiles and interact with children. Keep a track of the people your child interacts with on social media and if you do not recognise a user as a friend, consider blocking them.



9 KEEP A CHECK ON SCREEN TIME

Managing how much time we spend on screens is a new challenge for us all. It's critically important when it comes to children, especially younger children who are still developing. It's not just a case of setting arbitrary time limits. Guidelines published by The Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health suggests it's more important to consider the 'context and content' of what the screen is being used for. Still, it is helpful to put limits on devices using 'Guided Access' functions, which you can find in the settings of certain devices.



Meet our expert

Emma Davis was a secondary school Computer Science teacher for more than decade. Since leaving education, she has been working in a cyber security firm delivering cyber awareness training to businesses and carrying out network testing. She is a mother of a five-year-old, she's had vast experience of controlling and managing how children access online services and use apps.



Are you not entertained?

Well, the Nursery children certainly are!



The Form 8 Nursery Ambassador, and Form 8 buddies enjoyed a break from exams to spend time in the Nursery Brick Room. Can you guess what they are building? It's the Coliseum!

The Nursery children showed the older boys where to find people to be soldiers and the older boys introduced the Nursery children to the word 'gladiator.'

On completion of the project, the Form 8s started to tidy away their work but were persuaded to leave out the construction so they could continue to play.

I wonder what they will make next time?

HB



French Stories at the Story Museum



On the last Friday morning before half term an excited group of Nursery, Reception and Form 1 children set off on their mini French trip and the short walk to the Story Museum for a morning of French story-telling.

With plenty of audience participation – in French of course - the children listened to two stories read to them by a young French lady. 'Gruffalo' (the gentle monster we all know) and 'Roule Galette' a story about a cheeky galette, or special French Epiphany cake, that escapes the oven and meets many adventures on its way before being gobbled up by a fox.

Apart from practising their French listening and speaking skills, the children were busy with a craft activity and had time to play, jump on an enormous bed, dress up and explore, until all too soon the time came round to step out of the magical world and walk back to school again....

AE-W



Bringing the Mesozoic Era to life... with chocolate!

Reception and Form 1 this week combined on Tuesday morning to create chocolate mousse mud and white chocolate dinosaur bones!

The main focus of this activity was to talk about new cooking techniques such as whisking egg whites to form stiff peaks and to learn how you fold melted chocolate with a metal spoon into egg whites to minimise loss of volume.

For this recipe we watched an Instagram video by chef Julius Roberts who demonstrated a very simple but effective recipe only using eggs, chocolate and water:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/ChpuxXXIPVA/?igsh=eWU2bnIyaGh6cG44>

We also looked carefully at how we scale up a recipe ensuring all had a chocolate mousse as well as a few spares for staff who had been well behaved!

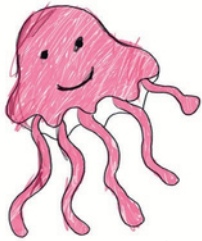
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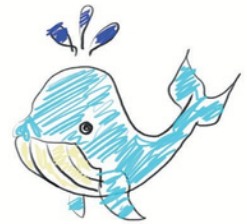
You can see how our youngest Pre-Preppers enjoyed making their sweet treat [here](#).



Drawing Competition for 4-12 Year-Olds



Penguins, dolphins,
whales and seals,



jellyfish, sharks and eels,

pirates, turtles,



some seashells on the shore,

coral and starfish,



on the ocean floor,

the sea is magic, fun and more,

what will you draw...?

Our After School Care team have placed a copy of the competition details into your child's bag.

Winning drawings will feature will be published in a book. Every child who enters will receive a sticker strip!

Please hand your entries into School by Friday 27th March.



CCCS Pre-Prep Concert
2.30pm Thursday 12th March, WWH



A selection of instrumental and vocal performances by the children in Pre-Prep.

Refreshments afterwards. All are welcome!

Un gâteau au yaourt

What a fun morning!

Form 5 baked a traditional French recipe, un gâteau au yaourt, at school on Thursday morning. Our French topic this term was based on food - how to order an ice cream, buy a snack, enjoy breakfast, create recipes, and shop in France, so we felt the need to end our work with a traditional pudding!

This recipe is usually loved by all, and the positive energy showed by these 18 boys, really eager to bake, and eat, was palpable in the dining room!

SL



Form 3 and 4 Concert
2.30pm Tuesday 17th March, Walton Hall



A programme of instrumental and vocal performances
by the boys in Forms 3 and 4.

Refreshments afterwards. All welcome!



This term's Trinity music exams will take place on
Tuesday 24th March.

Good luck to all pupils taking exams. We look
forward to celebrating your hard work!

Football Focus

CCCS v The Manor

CCCS A & B Teams

On Wednesday afternoon, Forms 5 and 6 welcomed The Manor over to Merton Field for some football. It was a glorious day. Finally, it felt as though Spring was just around the corner! there was a happy combinations of sunshine and lots of people out enjoying the fresh air.

The Manor only brought two teams, so that meant that our 4 teams had to play half a match each. On the back pitch our B's started off with a really even game, both teams attacking with speed and some excellent dribbling. Virtue was on a mission to defeat The Manor backline on his own with his endless mazy runs forward. Unfortunately, The Manor defence stood firm and made some good blocks to keep the scores level. With time ticking down, Manor were awarded a penalty which they scored and with moments left they added a second goal which gave the scoreline a more one-sided look than it should have been. Special mention to Fred Higson who ran and ran his socks off in the middle of the pitch and also Andy Tao who didn't stop.

The second game saw our A team take to the field. They were in control from the first kick and played some wonderful possession-based football, really trying to implement the work we have been doing on the training pitch. With chance after chance going begging and The Manor basically parking the bus in front of their goal, it felt it wasn't going to be our day. However, with five minutes to go Raphael finally took one of our clear chances to put us ahead. The scoreline could and should have been more like a cricket score, but for the dogged defending and decent goalkeeping from The Manor. But the thing that was really pleasing to see was the ability to relax in possession and move the ball into space to create the chance to score. There is more work required on finishing over the next few weeks! Well done to all the boys involved this afternoon.

Mr Pear.



CCCS B1 & B2 Teams

The Forms 5 and 6 B1 and B2 teams played football against The Manor at home on Wednesday afternoon. It was a tough start to the match for the B2s, conceding a few early goals, but the boys settled into the game and ended up playing well. They had some great passes which put the other team under some pressure, and the defending made it very difficult for the other team to create many more clear chances. Player of the match was Flynn, for his outstanding defending and putting in some great challenges to stop goals.

Following that game, the B1s took the field, who similarly started conceding a goal and an unfortunate penalty. After that though, the game was much closer, going end to end with chances for both teams. Some great attacking plays led to some good saves from the Manor goalkeeper, and some world class blocks kept the score close until the very end. Player of the game was Shaun who was a constant attacking threat, with his quick feet and some good shots on goal.

Mr Rowland.

Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Time	Team	Event	Location
Tuesday 3rd March	2.15 - 4.00	U8/U9	Rugby v Cothill	Away
Wednesday 4th March	2.30 - 4.00	U10/U11	Football v The Dragon	Home



It's always a boost for our boys to see their Cheer Squad on the sidelines!

So we'd love for you to join us at the Playing Field to support our teams.

You'll receive a warm welcome - and refreshments will be waiting for you!

Hockey Highlights

Cothill v CCCS



On Wednesday the Forms 7/8 A and B hockey teams had the privilege of travelling to Radley College to play a fixture against Cothill. Firstly, the B team came up against a clinical Cothill side. They went into half-time 2-0 down; however, with a great deal of resilience and determination, led by Head of Sport Milan B, CCCS matched their opponents in the second half, drawing it 1-1. The final score was 3-1. It was an excellent game which the boys can be proud of, especially as it was their first hockey fixture of the year.

Secondly, the A team started strongly and went 1-0 up, but Cothill responded with an equaliser to make it 1-1 at half-time. Cothill then capitalised on a few missed chances from CCCS and managed to score twice more, ending the fixture 3-1. A special mention goes to Eaton D-B, who was excellent in goal, making a number of outstanding saves. In both matches, the boys showed great effort throughout and performed exceptionally well for their first hockey fixtures, showing strong foundations to build upon for the remainder of the season.

Mr Boarder and Mr Morgan

MCS v CCCS

The Year 3-4 boys travelled to Magdalen College for their first hockey game of the year. We played 3 fixtures with all the boys having a good run out in the sunshine.

Our first team all showed up with a great attitude and played well considering how we are in the early stages of Hockey at CCCS. It was very close with it being 1-1 for majority of the game, however MCS managed to score a couple of quick-fire goals towards the end with the final score being 3-1. Despite this, the boys never gave up. Special mention to Louis who was brilliant in attack, however, the man of the match went to Isaac who was amazing in defence and prevented many certain goals.

Due to a slight shortage of numbers, we were able to borrow some MCS players in two of the games. The second team had some great passing plays and some shots on goals but unfortunately did not get many clear chances to score. There was some amazing effort from our players to work hard and keep trying even when the game got tough. Player of the match was Harrison, who had lots of touches on the ball and made some good passes to others in the team.

The third team also played well, making numerous excellent tackles and working together as a team. There was some great effort shown in the glorious sunshine with the final score being 4-2 to MCS. Given that this was their first Hockey fixture, the CCCS boys did the school proud. Player of the match was Fraser who created space and made some excellent dribbles forward with the ball.

Mr Pear, Mr Morgan and Mr Rowland



Sporting Stars



Regular readers of the newsletter will already be aware of Kailuo's impressive swimming achievements, following a truly fantastic year of competition. We are therefore delighted to share this latest piece of exciting news with you and hope you will join us in celebrating his continued success.

Kailuo recently competed in the Oxfordshire & North Buckinghamshire Counties A.S.A. County Championships and Age Group Competitions 2026, affiliated to Swim England South East.

He achieved an excellent result, winning two silver medals and two bronze medals. In addition, he has successfully met the qualifying standards for the South East Regional Championships in the following events:

- 50m Butterfly
- 100m Butterfly
- 200m Butterfly
- 400m Individual Medley
- 1500m Freestyle

He will therefore go on to compete at the South East Regional Championships later this year.

This is a particularly remarkable achievement given the highly competitive nature of the 12-year-old age group. Kailuo is only 11 years old and is one of the younger swimmers in his age group. His results testified his dedication, perseverance, and determination.

His parents are very proud of his Kailuo's hard work and achievements, as is the school. Huge congratulations Kailuo!

Courtesy of Ms Liang

Making the Most of Oxford

It was a selfish wish that sparked the idea of 'Making the Most of Oxford Club'.

Admittedly I was a newcomer to Oxford. My family and I had moved from the windswept fields and wide skies of East Anglia, and before that I had lived further afield, in France and Switzerland. Star struck perhaps with Oxford's beauty, I also knew very little about the city and its rich and varied history.

How often did I wish that the old city walls along Brewer Street, which I pass almost daily to reach our school, could talk, or the impressive gateway through which we walk to Christ Church Cathedral for Assembly every Friday could whisper who had stepped on those well-trodden cobbled stones leading into Tom Quad or reveal who had passed underneath?

One is acutely aware that all around us, here in Oxford, there is so much which is of historical and cultural interest, and I am on a permanent quest to find out more.

In fact, in the end, the idea of the 'Making the Most of Oxford Club' really took root thanks to a conversation with Mrs Schiller, one of our previous Maths teachers, over a cup of coffee in the Staff Room. Mrs Schiller, whilst cycling past honey-coloured Oxford colleges and city walls into school every day, had also had the same thoughts and burning wish to learn more about the buildings, streets and passageways of this beautiful city, steeped in history. "How about we go out and explore the city with the children?!"

And that is how our 'Making the Most of Oxford Club' started.



Nowadays, we set off every Friday afternoon during Enrichment time with a gaggle of Prep boys, armed with a first aid bag – including plasters and wipes for grazed knees that stumble over kerbs or cobbled stones, and ice packs for those who walk into lamp posts (yes, this did happen!) - and occasionally also iPads to take photographs of captivating architectural points of interest.

The first club expedition usually begins with a good look at the Map of Oxford through the ages, followed by the climbing of a tower, such as the Saxon Tower of St Michael's in the North Gate which conveniently explains the fact that Oxford used to have four such gates denoting the entrance to the city from the North, South, East and West (hence the West Gate shopping centre of course). We have also climbed the narrow, steep and winding steps to, almost, the top of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin. Both towers offer magnificent views over the city and give a good idea what the City of Spires looks like from above, offering glimpses into college quads, alley ways, and up and down main streets, high above pedestrians and traffic. From this vantage point, the boys enjoy spotting Tom Tower, Oxford Castle and other familiar buildings and places they recognise.

After this, the list of interesting places and buildings to choose from to visit and experience is almost endless. Within only a short walk from school, Oxford seems to be a city that is forever giving. How lucky we are!

We have visited Oxford Castle, climbed its mound, studied its timeline and walked through the prison yard. We have strolled along Dead Man's Walk towards the Botanic Gardens where we step into an entirely different climate in the Glasshouses giving us a sense of what a rainforest might look, smell, feel and sound like. We have climbed into the Organ Loft at Christ Church, heard about its history and played the organ there. We have stepped through a very ordinary looking door on the side of the entrance to the quad at Christ Church into a seemingly different world of tiny steps leading upwards past medieval graffiti in a vast and cavernous room, and eventually leading up to Tom Tower. We had to hold our ears whilst Great Tom tolled. On another visit to the Cathedral office, we lifted a cannon ball from the days of the Civil War which had got lodged in one of the walls of Christ Church.



We have stood in one of the oldest and dampest stone walled rooms in Oxford, at the bottom of St Michael's North Gate, where the city guards would have rested between watches. We have stared at Einstein's blackboard at the Science Museum, been dazzled by King Alfred's jewel at the Ashmolean, and shivered contemplating Scott of the Antarctic's favourite tin of Frank Cooper's Oxford marmalade, which he had taken on the ill-fated expedition and is now on display at the Museum of Oxford. The tin of marmalade made its way back; Captain Scott didn't. As a slight detour from our ventures, we then returned to school to taste four different marmalades, including Frank Cooper's Oxford Marmalade in a blind tasting to decide whether it really did taste that good. Verdict: the majority of the club members preferred Sainsbury's special!

More recently, we have enjoyed a tour of the Bodleian Library, type faced our names and learned about the art of printing at the Bodleian University Press and eyed in wonder the exhibition 'Treasures from the Bodleian' at the Weston Gallery.

With Spring promising better weather, Mrs Price, one of the other club leaders, is planning a special Oxford Walk. What began with a purely literary theme quickly expanded to include many wonders that we pass in ignorance every day: the sight of the first English hot air balloon flight, from our very own playing fields in 1784; the oldest purpose-built music room in Europe and the theatre where Haydn conducted his 'Oxford Symphony'; the Anthony Gormley statue that looks down from the roof of Exeter College; the cross marking the place where Bishops Cranmer, Ridley & Latimer were burned for their beliefs in the 16th century; the plaque to Captain Noel Chavasse – the only person to have received 2 VCs in WW1; the statue of Cardinal Wolsey below Tom Tower (finished by Christopher Wren because Wolsey fell out of favour!). Now we just need a sunny afternoon to discover these Oxford treasures.

Recently, I mentioned to one of our club members that I would be writing an article about 'Making the Most of Oxford Club' and I asked him whether there was something pressing that I should include. He looked at me intently and said that I absolutely HAD to say that "it was really fun to go out of school and explore and find out more about the city and its places and history." Excellent! A boy after my own heart.

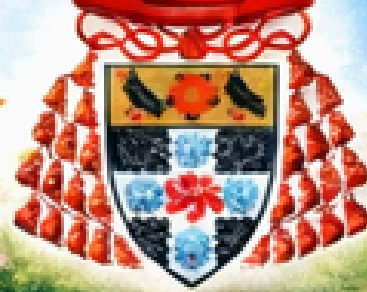
Mme Alexandra Eccles-Williams

Club Leader

French Teacher

Learning Support





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13TH - 15TH APRIL

8AM - 4PM

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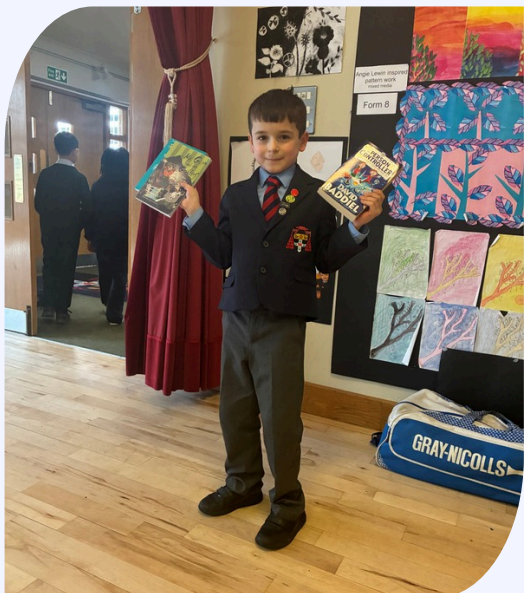
CCCS Holiday Clubs



School Photobook



More from the
Story Museum



Book Swap
Sneak Peak

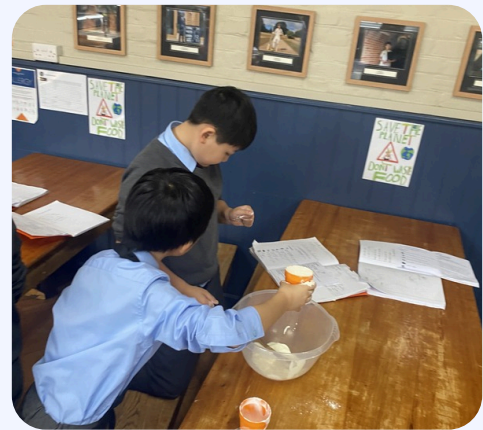


Fraser and his new books

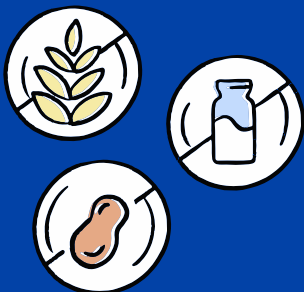
School Photobook



Form 5
Ready, steady
bake!



Celebrating
Lunar
New Year



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.