



Christ Church Cathedral School News

13th March 2026



Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

I am sitting on the train between Pisa and Florence having flown here from Gatwick this morning. As I write this, the sun is falling on the Tuscan hills which surround the flat plain upon which the train line is laid. The Mediterranean pines give the whole scene a sense of the landscape having been here, fairly unchanged, since the time of the Etruscans. The 13 boys I am with are sitting comfortably on the train. Though they seem mainly calm they are clearly very excited about arriving to the beautiful city awaiting them the other side of the Appenines - Florence. Their excitement is particularly intense given that they know that their first task is to make and then eat pasta!

The train is now drawing into Empoli, a rather non-descript looking place but one which is very close to the village of Vinci from which Leonardo came. There are reminders everywhere in Tuscany of its extraordinary cultural impact on the world. We are very much hoping to give the boys of the Worcester Choir a sense of this extraordinary history. During the course of the tour we will be singing in the hilltop town of Arezzo, in the English church in Florence and, most excitingly, in the Great Duomo of Santa Maria del Fiori, the Cathedral of St Mary of the Flowers. We have been given special access when the cathedral is closed to the public so we will have the place to ourselves. I suspect the acoustics will be ravishing. The boys in our choirs are so fortunate.

We had a very successful open morning. Over and over again I was told by parents who had come round that the boys who had done their tours were charming, thoughtful and gentlemanly. I really am very proud of our boys.

I was particularly struck by the way in which they interacted with the many very young children who were attending with their parents. They played on the floor and took time to take an interest in them, I really want to publicly thank these boys for their help in making it such a successful day.

It was also a real pleasure to attend the Pre-Prep concert yesterday. What struck me was the panache of the performers who played with real energy and determination, despite, many of them, only having played the instruments which they handled so confidently, for a very short time. The concert ended with three songs; a song explaining the techniques of pancake making, including the excitement of tossing the finished article; the second, a song in Malay about a cockatoo and a grandmother with two teeth - I now know a few words of Malay though I'm not sure how useful they will be. The third song was about the behaviour of penguins. It's always best when learning is so entertaining! Have a wonderful weekend and, as they say in these parts, "Ciao!"

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 16th March - Sunday 22nd March

MONDAY 16 MARCH

4.30 - 10.30pm: Forms 5 - 8: Henry V (The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford)
5.00pm: Worcester choir Florence trip returning (approx.)

TUESDAY 17 MARCH

2.30 - 3.30: Forms 3&4 Concert (WWH)
3.30 - 7.30: Form 8 Parents' Evening (Online)

WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH

9.30 - 11.00: Nursery Stay & Play
1.00 - 2.00: Rose Award Assessment Afternoon
1.30 - 4.30: U11 Football v Cokethorpe - Away
2.30 - 4.00: U12/U13 Football v Dragon - Home

THURSDAY 19 MARCH

All Day: Leopard Award Assessment Day
All Day: Cardinal Scholarship Assessment Day
12.30 - 2.00: Reception – Form 2 Trip to the Natural History Museum

FRIDAY 20 MARCH

Rose Nose Day
8.45 - 9.15: Cathedral Assembly, Speaker - TBC
9.15 - 9.45: *All parents are welcome to join us in the Priory Room for coffee following the service*
9.05 - 10.25: Forms 3&4 visit La Fromagerie (Oxford Covered Market)
6.30 - 8.30: School Play (WWH)

SATURDAY 21 MARCH

6.30 - 8.30: School Play (WWH)

Upcoming Events



Nursery Stay & Play Wednesday 18th March 9.30 - 11.00am

We are looking forward to meeting new friends at our upcoming Nursery Stay & Play!

Bring your little ones along for our Stay & Play session! It's a great opportunity for children to explore, play, and make new friends in our friendly surroundings, while parents relax and meet with our staff and other families.

To register your place, simply click [here](#).

Penhallion
Saturday 21st March
6.30 pm



Hilary Term School Play: Penhallion
Friday 19th and Saturday 20th March
6.30pm

Christ Church Cathedral School

Mr Richards and the cast have been working incredibly hard to bring this term's production to life, and would be delighted if you could join them to enjoy the story. With performances running over two exciting evenings, it promises to be a fantastic showcase of the pupils' talent - don't miss out!

To reserve your complimentary tickets, simply contact the School Office - we hope to see you there!



Wine Tasting Evening
Thursday 19th March
6.30pm - 8.00pm
Christ Church

Join us for an exciting evening in the McKenna Room at Christ Church, where you'll embark on a Mediterranean odyssey through a selection of specially curated wines.

Tickets are £25.00 each and can be booked by emailing messenger.m@cccs.org.uk



Pre-Prep Easter Eggs-travaganza!
Friday 27th March
1.00pm - 4.00pm
Christ Church Cathedral

Pre-Prep need your help to find all the easter eggs hidden by the Easter Bunny!

Join us for an afternoon of Easter fun at Christ Church Cathedral - there will be a service, activities and of course, the infamous Easter Egg Hunt!

We look forward to celebrating the start of the Easter break with our Pre-Prep families.

After School Clubs

Something for everyone!

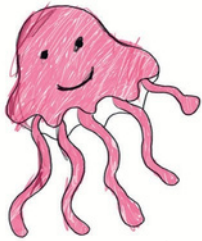
After School Club Timetable

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

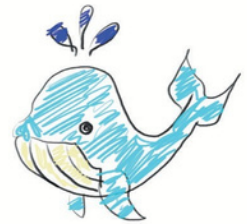
To sign your child up for a club, please email schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk with your child's name, Form and the name of the club they want to join and the day.



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.

WE'RE TAKING OURSELVES

FUNNY

**FOR MONEY THIS
RED NOSE DAY**

WHAT? Go *RED* for Red Nose Day

Wear as much red as possible! Boys can collect a red nose from the School Office next week for a minimum donation of £2.00

WHEN? *Friday 20th March*

WHERE? *Christ Church Cathedral School*

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DAY**

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Red Nose Day is an initiative of Comic Relief, operating name of Charity Projects, registered charity in England & Wales (326568) and Scotland (SC039730) and company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (01806414), registered address 6th Floor, The White Chapel Building, 10 Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 8QS.

FRIDAY 20 MARCH

Another awesome week in Nursery!

The Nursery children have spent lots of time outside this week exploring new areas of their playground.

The dinosaurs are back in a purpose-built enclosure, equipped with wood chips and new tools to feed and care for them. One of the children even reported seeing a dinosaur egg!

Our visitors across the week have been admiring our new sandpit, giving us the opportunity to use all the sand equipment the PA bought us this term. You may have even spotted some Reception and Form 8s in there.

Special thanks to the Bursary, to Mr Vinny, but especially to Mr Mirko for not only collecting the soil and wood chips but completing the Herculean task of moving the sand into the sandpit. Bravo.

Form 8 deserve a special thanks this week too, for their brilliant science bubble workshop. Our successful Open Morning would not have been the same without our ambassador and buddies who brought families to see us with children coming full of applause for their enthusiasm for our school. There was no question either that these boys know the Nursery well as they ran off to engage in dinosaur, woodland camp, train or sand play.

HB



Granny Berry's Golden Shorties Recipe

Mr Berry's grandmother was also a teacher and passed on a recipe that she used with her class in the 1940s for Golden Shorties, a version of an oat hobnob biscuit. Granny Berry always said they were very popular and that she had adapted the recipe from her grandmother's cookbook dating from 1815!

It seemed like a good idea to use this recipe in Pre-Prep for our recent cooking afternoon.

The children were divided into four groups each led by an adult. We introduced the concept of ounces and a conversion to grams and how to use electric scales to measure out the ingredients. We then spoke about the raising agent, bicarbonate of soda and the balance of sugar, fat and flour to create a malleable dough.

Our assistant chef Olivia kindly helped us bake them in the kitchen ovens so we could enjoy them in school. You will be pleased to hear they were as popular today as they were in the past!

MB, SB, MHW & MM

Ingredients

- 4 oz margarine (120g)
- 4 oz caster sugar (120g)
- 1 tsp golden syrup
- 1 tsp bicarbonate soda
- 1 tsp boiling water
- 4 oz oats (120g)
- 4 oz self raising flour (120g)

Makes 20 biscuits - 160 fan oven

Method

1. Measure out the ingredients - Oats and flour in one bowl. Margarine, sugar, syrup, bicarbonate soda and water into a saucepan.
2. Melt together margarine, sugar, syrup, bicarbonate soda and water on a medium heat.
3. Stir in oats and flour. The mixture should come from the side of the pan.
4. Place small teaspoon size amounts on a baking tray for 20 mins. They will spread so leave space for growth.

Enjoy!



Science Week in Pre-Prep: Curiosity in Action

Pre-Prep Experiments with Form 8

During Science Week, pupils explored this year's theme, "Curiosity: What's Your Question?" through a fantastic afternoon of hands-on experiments led by our Form 8 pupils.

Working in small groups, the Form 8s designed and curated their own scientific investigations before welcoming the Pre-Prep pupils to take part. The younger children rotated around the activities in a carousel, giving them the opportunity to participate in or closely observe a range of exciting experiments, while asking plenty of their own questions along the way.

The activities were wonderfully varied and sparked curiosity at every station. Pupils investigated colourful fireworks reactions, using metal salts and iron filings heated with a Bunsen burner to see how different substances produce different colours and sparks. At another station, children explored separating materials, using sieves, magnets and filter funnels to discover how mixtures can be separated in different ways.

Creativity and engineering were put to the test in the spaghetti and marshmallow building challenge, where pupils experimented with structure and stability to create the tallest and strongest towers they could.

In another investigation, pupils explored air resistance by dropping LEGO figures attached to parachutes of three different sizes and timing how long they took to fall. This helped them think about how surface area affects how slowly objects move through the air.

Messy science proved especially popular! Children created oobleck, a fascinating non-Newtonian fluid made from cornflour and water, discovering how it can behave like both a liquid and a solid depending on how it is handled. They also watched the dramatic reaction known as elephant toothpaste, where a mixture of vinegar, bicarbonate of soda, soap and food colouring created an exciting foaming eruption.

Finally, pupils had the chance to make and play with super bubbles, using a special bubble mixture to create enormous bubbles with giant blowers.

The event was a wonderful example of collaboration across the school. Our Form 8 pupils demonstrated impressive leadership, planning and scientific thinking, while the Pre-Prep pupils embraced the chance to explore, experiment and ask questions. It was a brilliant celebration of curiosity and the joy of discovery.

MH-W



Form 1 - Curious About Breaks!

As part of British Science Week, Form 1 explored how different birds survive in their habitats. We focussed on new vocabulary; habitat, organism, and survive, and used these ideas to think like real scientists.

The children investigated how birds use their beaks by testing different tools (like tweezers, slotted spoons, and droppers) to pick up items such as rice, pasta, and lentils. They quickly noticed that each “beak” worked best with certain foods, just like real birds in the wild.

We then read *Beaks!* and discovered how beaks help birds live in the right habitat, whether it's a hummingbird sipping nectar, a macaw cracking nuts, or a bird with a hook-shaped beak catching prey. The children made thoughtful connections between the story and their experiment, explaining how some organisms survive better because their bodies suit their environment.

Form 1 showed wonderful curiosity throughout, asking questions and making predictions as true young scientists.

MH-W



Growing Our Woodland Together

As part of British Science Week, our Form 8 boys joined the Pre-Prep children in the Woodland School for an afternoon dedicated to curiosity, nature, and stewardship. With a shared appreciation for the natural sciences, the pupils worked together to plant young saplings that will one day grow into habitats for a variety of animals.

This activity forms part of our ongoing partnership with Christ Church, supporting a long-term programme to increase biodiversity across our Woodland School. The boys showed real pride in contributing to the environment, demonstrating teamwork, care, and a growing sense of responsibility for the natural world.

The woodland was alive with birdsong and the gentle whistle of the wind through the trees, an idyllic setting for a collaborative project that will continue to benefit our school community and local wildlife for years to come.

MH-W



Visit our [Science Week photo album](#) to see more!

Pre-Prep Concert



The children of Pre-Prep offered a confident and joyful series of performances at this year's Pre-Prep Concert, given on Thursday in the Walton Hall.

Our youngest instrumental ensembles joined forces to open the afternoon with a vigorous rendition of 'Stripy Cat Crawl', after which an impressive range of solos showed off classical and jazz skills on keyboard, strings and woodwind. It was especially exciting to see such impressive contributions on the recorder; a superb springboard into other woodwinds as well as an excellent instrument in its own right.

The concert concluded with three songs chosen to stretch the abilities of our Pre-Prep Choir; an action song about making pancakes, a witty echo song describing the behaviour of penguins, and a gentle folk song from Malaysia - performed adeptly in Malay, and featuring some amusing observations about a cockatoo, a grandma and her two remaining teeth! I was so impressed by the children's confidence and by the celebratory atmosphere. Many thanks to class and music staff for helping to make our concert such a success, and to family and friends for forming our supportive audience.

SB

Photos of the concert will soon be available on your SPLAAT account.

From Ancient Egypt to Awesome Angles!

A walk through Ancient Egypt

Form 3 visited the Ashmolean Museum to see the Ancient Egyptian galleries to view some of the artefacts we have been learning about in our history lessons. It was fascinating to see the mummies (including a mummified cat!); hieroglyphics scribed into tombs and scraps of ancient papyrus and many other objects which gave us an insight into how the Ancient Egyptians used to live.

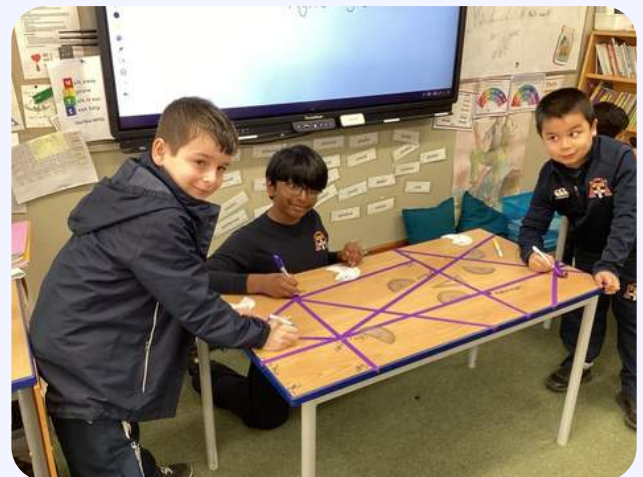
CZ



Awesome Angles

Form 3 have had fun finding acute, obtuse and right angles this week using our right angle eating monster! We then measured the angles with protractors. Come to Form 3 to find more hidden angles, parallel and perpendicular lines and hidden secrets in triangles and quadrilaterals!

SG



Mothers Day Surprise

Avert your gaze, parents of Form 3...



Form 3 have been busy creating some lovely Mother's Day cards this week. The children put lots of care into their colourful designs and thoughtful messages for the special people in their lives – they were very proud of their beautiful creations!

CZ



Form 8 Explores the Origins of Computing



The National Museum of Computing is a strange and wonderful place. Set in one of the Second World War huts at Bletchley Park, where code-breakers pioneered the concepts which would lead to modern computing, it showcases how computers have developed from the 1940s to the present day - or at least, until shortly after the Millennium. It certainly made this teacher feel old to see her first iPhone in a museum case!

Form 8 had a fantastic day. They undertook coding challenges of their own, designed to teach them how computers encode and decode information using binary. We were shown exhibits including a reconstruction of Alan Turing's Bombe and the world's oldest working computer. The WITCH fills one wall with valves with flashing lights, and we were shown how it receives an instruction from ticker-tape, encodes it into binary, performs a calculation and exports the answer through more lights: it is basically an enormous calculator. Another highlight of the museum was realising that a 1960s computer the size of a small room could hold less data than the photographs Emilio took of it while we were looking at it.

Of course, the boys' favourite parts of the day were the hands-on sections. The museum has a whole computer suite of BBC Micros - the first computers most schools were able to afford, in the early 1980s. The boys used the Basic programming language to create a Snake game, realising how much harder it is than modern programming. No mouse! Finally, we had time to play in a room full of games consoles from the 1980s to the millennium. And yes, old games are still fun, and everyone loves a bit of Pac-Man.

AF

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 at
School on Tuesday 24th March.

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



THE | OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SINGING SCHOOL

The Singing School was established in 2013 to provide children with the opportunity to sing great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment and to develop their confidence and ability in singing and performing .

This Easter, we will be learning some beautiful seasonal music and, as always on our courses, we will be giving sessions on vocal technique, music theory, music appreciation and history.

To join our mailing list and for more information on our courses, please see www.oxbridgesingingschool.com or email oxbridgess@gmail.com

To claim your Christ Church Cathedral discount, use code ChChCath for £10 discount per family.

30 & 31 March 2026

also 21-23 July 2026, 21 & 22 December 2026

Courses for those aged 7-13 who love to sing

www.oxbridgesingingschool.com



After School Club

Fencing Club

Would your child be interested in becoming a 'Little Musketeer'?

The school is proposing the introduction of a new After School Club for children in Reception to Form 5 to potentially run on Thursday afternoons.

If you feel your child would be interested in joining the club, please email schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk for more information or sign up!

Hockey Highlights

New College v CCCS



A Team

On Monday our senior A and B teams faced New College hockey teams at St Edwards Astro. This was always going to be a tough match with Hockey being New College's main sport. CCCS held their own and scored a couple of decent goals, showing grit and determination until the end. In the end our As were well beaten by a strong side but certainly had some positives to take away from the afternoon.

Mr Harrison

B Team

On Monday, the Forms 7 and 8 B team travelled to St Edward's to play New College School.

The boys performed exceptionally well against a strong New College side. They defended well during the first 10 minutes, but New College managed to score three goals in quick succession. The team began the second half positively, highlighted by an excellent goal from Milan B. Despite this strong start, New College responded by scoring three more goals in the second half, bringing the final score to 6-1.

Player of the Match goes to Henry P, playing in goal against a tough opposition, he never gave up, making several outstanding saves and showing real resilience throughout the match.

Mr Boarder

Football Focus

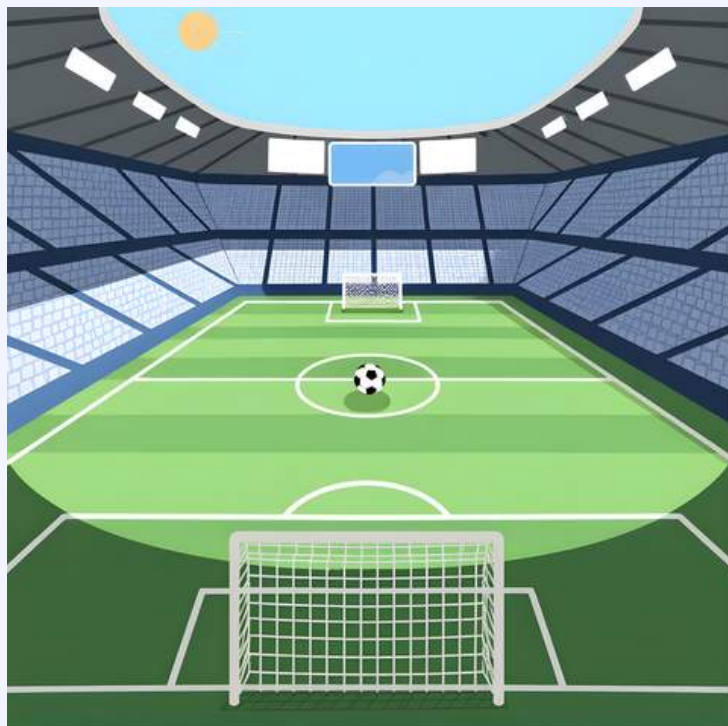
U9s Tournament at The Oratory

The Form 3 boys travelled to Oratory Prep to participate in a football tournament where they would play five matches. The first game was against the hosts Oratory, where the boys fired early, with goals from Edward and Reggie securing a solid win and a great start to the tournament. Next game against St Hugh's, where both teams were similarly matched, and defensive efforts from both teams led to an exciting match which ended 0-0. The boys continued to try hard in the next game on astroturf, playing against St Johns Beaumont, where they unfortunately went down 1-0 with another close game, which could have gone either way. Towards the end of the day, the boys struggled with tiredness but still tried their best against Chandlings coming away with another draw. In the final game of the day, we came up against eventual winners Moulford, who showed their great skills and scored some nice goals, even with Ashhvith making some really good saves throughout the match. Overall, the coaches were proud of the boys' skills and positive attitude throughout the day, even when they conceded goals and things were not going their way.

Form 4 also went along for the same tournament but were pitted against some strong opposition on our side of the draw. We got off to an electric start, beating Claire's Court 3-0 in our opening match. A brilliant first performance was followed by a slightly less strong performance, being beaten by a very good Moulford team. Then the boys rallied and went down narrowly to The Beacon, having created a number of good chances and also missing a penalty. Our final group game was against Chandlings, where Mr Pear decided to play a number of boys in new positions to give them a different experience. Sadly the experiment didn't work and we were well beaten once more. However, the boys kept battling and worked well with continuous smiles on their faces right until the end.

On a side note, a certain Gareth Bale was in attendance, watching his son play in the year 3 tournament.

Mr Pear & Mr Rowland



Football Focus

U12/U13 v d'Overbroeck's

On Wednesday afternoon a daylight robbery took place on Merton Field!

Our Form 7 and 8 teams hosted two teams from d'Overbroeck's. This was the second time we had played d'Overbroeck's this season and was a good test to see how far we had come as a team on the football pitch. Before Christmas, in the previous match, our A team had gone down 5-2 in a relatively one-sided encounter. So, the test was to be more competitive and show how much progress we had made as a team over the past 4 months. The performance could not have been more different.

From the first whistle the CCCS team dominated the possession, the play and the chances. Despite this, we somehow went a goal behind, but a tremendous, long range free-kick from Ray brought us level at half time. The message at the break was 'more of the same in the second half and you should win this game comfortably'. The pattern of the second half was much the same with CCCS making all the running but not making the most of the numerous chances we were creating. Finally, with 10 minutes to play, a through ball was latched onto by Ray who rounded the goalkeeper brilliantly to put us into a more than well deserved lead.

More chances to cap of the win came and went, but with three minutes to play disaster struck as a rare d'Overbroeck's attack led to a penalty being awarded. The spot kick was dispatched and the draw looked inevitable. Unbelievably, that was not the end of the scoring and with pretty much the final play of the game, d'Overbroeck's struck again after a goalmouth scramble. A 3-2 defeat, and one that was tough to take for the boys after such a dominant display. However, this is an important lesson to learn at this stage of their footballing development and one that will hopefully stand us in good stead for the visit of The Dragon next Wednesday afternoon. Plenty of finishing practice between now and then!

I will say that despite the result, the performance and the undoubted progress that the team has made was excellent to see and something for everyone to be really proud of. We go again next week!

Mr Pear



Football Focus

U10/U11 Tournament at Bruern Abbey



On Wednesday, a group of our Form 5 boys travelled to Bruern Abbey to take part in an U10 tournament. The boys performed very well, winning two of their matches against Bruern Abbey, drawing with The Dragon, and narrowly losing to Gateway and Chilton. All of the matches were highly competitive, and the boys represented the school superbly, showing excellent sportsmanship and teamwork throughout the tournament. Player of the Tournament goes to Jing L, who was outstanding in goal. He made a number of crucial saves and played a key role in helping the team secure an impressive third-place finish overall.
Mr Boarder

The Form 6 team were also in action for the Bruern Abbey tournament. We made a strong start, with a really positive first match. The following matches were a bit of a struggle against some very strong opposition. However, we ended on a positive note with a huge win the final game, which showed great resilience from Form 6. Well done to all the boys that took part.
Mr Cruzioli

Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Time	Team	Event	Location
Wednesday 18th March	2.30 - 4.00	U12/U13	Football v The Dragon	Home
Wednesday 18th March	2.00 - 4.30	U11	Football v Cokethorpe	Away
Tuesday 24th March	2.30 - 4.00	U10/U11	Football v Ashfold	Home

With just two home matches left this term, it would be fantastic to see plenty of supporters cheering the boys on. Do come down to the Pavilion - you're always very welcome!



CCCS

EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB

13TH - 15TH APRIL

8AM - 4PM

- SPORTS & GAMES!
- COOL CHALLENGES!
- TEAM ACTIVITIES!

ONLY **£60** PER DAY!

BOOK NOW!

LIMITED SPACES -
DON'T MISS OUT!

SCAN TO BOOK!



CCCS Holiday Clubs

Don't delay, sign up today!
If you have not yet reserved your place, please let us know. If numbers are too low the clubs will be cancelled, so book now to avoid disappointment.

School Photobook



Science Week!



School Photobook



Pre-Prep
make
Granny
Berry proud



Making the
most of
Oxford visit
the Bodleian
Library

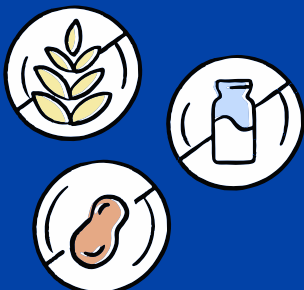
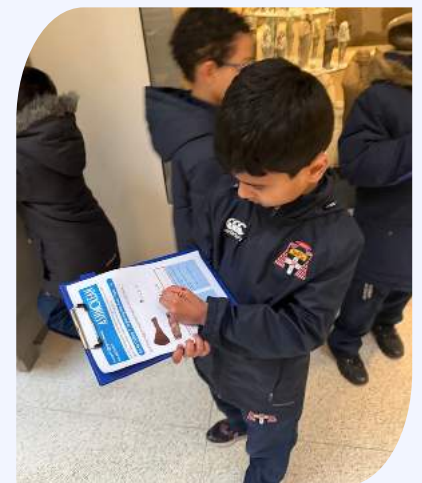


Form 8
visit the
National
Museum of
Computing



School Photobook

Form 3
visit the
Ashmolean



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.