



# Christ Church Cathedral School News

5th June 2026



## Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

This week has been an immensely studious few days in that all the Prep School have been doing exams. The Form Eights have been doing their Common Entrance, the final exam of their time at school - all boys at our School still do this exam even if very many senior schools no longer require it, though some still do, we feel strongly that practice of exams is an immensely important skill that we ought to be teaching our pupils. My firm belief, having spent most of my career in senior schools, is that those people who arrive at senior school knowing how to take exams tend to do much better in them at GCSE at a level. We all know that exams are not the be all and end all of education- very far from it, but it is important to have ways of testing people and of gauging how well they are performing.

Exams also teach people many important skills. As mentioned above, all our pupils will be taking important exams in the future. Exams also allow us to master knowledge, knowledge and skills which we have been learning over the past months or years. To be able to demonstrate that we can undertake these skills is an immensely satisfying experience. Mastering knowledge too is something which is vital and deeply pleasurable. But more widely we all, at certain times in our lives, have to rise to challenges or prepare carefully for experiences which are intense and which have real consequences. To learn how to do these things now in a benign environment, is very important. So I think it is entirely right that our pupils should be engaged in exams at the moment.

Indeed, our successes at senior school pre-tests are notable, partly because of the preparation that we have given our pupils. This is an important aspect of being a preparatory school.

I mentioned above that I thought it was important that we acquire knowledge and skills. I think it is particularly important to insist upon this at the moment. Many people will argue that knowing things is an increasingly redundant thing and indeed that very many intellectual skills are increasingly redundant. The March of AI, which will of course transform very many jobs and the way we do all sorts of things perhaps argues for an education which no longer values knowledge or nature skills.

Personally, I would disagree strongly with this approach. As summer begins, I would recommend to you one of my favourite places, Kelmscott Manor near Lechlade. Kelmscott is a beautiful old house beside the River Thames. During the latter half of the 19th century, it was inhabited by the Pre-Raphaelite genius William Morris. He had seen the advance of machinery throughout the 19th century, an advance which led to the loss of many traditional skills. He believed that these skills were important and that it was a good thing to write, to draw, to work with the word and paint and he founded companies which still exist today, which champion crafts undertaken by people. He believed that it was essential to the happiness of human beings that they undertook such things and using one's hands in these ways was fundamental to what it was to be human. His house is a testament to this combination of beauty and practicality; do please take the opportunity to visit this wonderful old place.

In just the same way we are now faced with the prospect of our mental skills being made redundant by AI. Of course, AI is the most miraculous and powerful tool and it will lead us to be able to achieve so much, but we must always retain our mental faculties otherwise we will be rendered impotent and redundant by it. I'm certain that this is what William Morris would think were he alive today. So we will be encouraging our pupils to continue to think for themselves, to remember things and to take time to value knowledge. That way AI will remain a very powerful tool rather than become our replacement.

In the Cathedral today we were visited by the Revd Liz Boughton, Chaplain of St Edward's. She had chosen as her reading a part of psalm 139 – a passage she claimed as one of her favourite parts of the Old Testament.

She quoted the following lines:

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well”

As an illustration of this, she got three boys to look into a box and tell her what they saw. What they saw in the box was a reflection of themselves in a mirror. “What can you see”, she asked. “A mirror!” they all replied in unison. What they had missed was the remarkable person they were looking at - had they looked beyond the mirror, they would have seen that they were “fearfully and wonderfully made.” We are all, she said, unique and priceless people. And of course, it is this that we so cherish in our School.

**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 8th - Sunday 14th June

## MONDAY 8 JUNE

ALL DAY: School Exams (Forms 3-7)  
ALL DAY: Form 8 End of Year Photographs  
2.00 - 5.00pm: U12/U13 Cricket v MCS (Home)

## TUESDAY 9 JUNE

ALL DAY: Form 8 Residential trip to Calshot

## WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE

ALL DAY: Form 8 Residential trip to Calshot  
9.30 - 11.00am: Nursery Stay & Play: Teddy Bear's Picnic  
2.30 - 4.00pm: U12 Cricket v The Oratory (Home)  
5.00 - 6.00pm: CCCS Family Ceilidh

## THURSDAY 11 JUNE

ALL DAY: Form 8 Residential trip to Calshot

## FRIDAY 12 JUNE

ALL DAY: Form 8 Residential trip to Calshot  
8.45 - 9.15am : Cathedral Assembly with Nursery & Pre-Prep, Speaker, The Headmaster  
*9.15 - 9.45am: Parents are welcome to join us in the Priory Room for coffee following the service*  
1.30 - 3.00pm: Reception, Form 1 & Form 2 trip to the Museum of Illusion

---

## Upcoming Events



### Christ Church Garden Tour & Drinks Reception

Wednesday 17th June

6.30 - 8.15pm

Christ Church

Explore the enchanting gardens of Christ Church with the Head Gardener and discover beautiful blooms, cosy corners and the dedicated care that makes this space so special.

The tour will conclude with drinks in the Cathedral Garden.

Ticket price: £10.00 per person

To book your place, please email  
[messenger.m@cccs.org.uk](mailto:messenger.m@cccs.org.uk)

Kindly note that this is an adult only event.



## Nursery Stay & Play

Teddy Bears' Picnic

Wednesday 10th June

9.30 - 11.00am

Christ Church Cathedral School

If you go into the woods today... you will see that the scene is set, the teddy bears are ready and the only thing missing, is you!

So we're inviting new friends to grab your best cuddly teddies and join our Nursery and Reception children for an exciting Woodland Adventure.

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



## CCCS Family Ceilidh

Wednesday 10th June

5.00 - 6.00pm

William Walton School Hall

We would like to invite you to the CCCS Family Ceilidh in support of one of the school's chosen charities - [Soundabout](#).

There will be a live band and a caller to help everyone to learn some very simple ceilidh dances.

We look forward to seeing you there!



## Nursery & Pre-Prep Assembly

Friday 12th June

8.45 - 9.45am

Christ Church Cathedral

We look forward to welcoming our Nursery and Pre-Prep children to Cathedral assembly.

Following the assembly, parents are warmly invited to the Priory Room for coffee and the chance to catch up with one another.

# Save the date

The CCCS Parents' Association  
invites you to our spectacular once in a lifetime

## FORMAL SUMMER BALL

To be held at Christ Church Great Hall

We look forward to seeing all the parents on  
the evening of

*Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026*

£80 per person

7:30 pm till late

**Drinks Reception in the Masters' Garden**  
**Dinner in the Great Hall**  
**Dance in the Undercroft**



Christ Church Cathedral School

**DRESS CODE: BLACK TIE / FORMAL / FABULOUS!**

**NOW OPEN TO FRIENDS & FAMILY!**

# School Clubs

## After School Club Timetable

| Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Mandarin Club</b><br>Reception - Form 2<br>Form 1 Classroom<br>3.30 - 4.15pm | <b>Multi Sports Club</b><br>Reception - Form 4<br>School Field<br>4.15 - 5.00pm | <b>Chess Club</b><br>Form 2<br>Form 1 Classroom<br>3.30 - 4.30pm | <b>Table Tennis Club</b><br>Forms 3 - 8<br>School Playground<br>4.15 - 5.00pm |
| <b>Cricket Club</b><br>Forms 3 - 8<br>School Field<br>4.15 - 5.00pm             | <b>Chess Club</b><br>Forms 3 - 6<br>Darwin<br>4.15 - 5.15pm                     |  | <b>Mandarin Club</b><br>Forms 3 - 8<br>Form 4<br>4.15 - 5.00pm                |
| <b>Real Tennis</b><br>Forms 3 - 8<br>Real Tennis Court<br>4.15 - 5.45pm         | <b>Squash Club</b><br>Forms 5 - 8<br>Squash Court<br>4.15 - 5.00pm              |  | <b>Little Musketeers</b><br>Reception - Form 2<br>WWH<br>3.30 - 4.15pm        |
|   |   |  | <b>Little Musketeers</b><br>Forms 3 - 8<br>WWH<br>4.15 - 5.00pm               |

To book your child in to one of our clubs, please email [schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk) and confirm your child's name and Form group.



# Water Safety

**Spending time near water can be fun, especially in warm weather, but open water can be dangerous even if you are a strong swimmer. Rivers, lakes, canals, quarries and reservoirs can be much colder than they look, with hidden hazards and strong currents.**

- Do not jump, dive or swim in open water unless it is a supervised, designated place.
- Never go near water alone - stay with friends and make sure someone knows where you are.
- Be aware that cold water shock can affect anyone, even strong swimmers, and can make it hard to breathe or move.
- Rivers, canals and lakes may have hidden dangers under the surface such as rocks, rubbish, weeds, fishing line or sudden drops.
- Do not take risks to impress others, including dares, bridge jumps or entering the water for social media content.
- If you fall in, try to stay calm, float on your back, keep your airway clear and control your breathing.
- If you see someone in trouble, call 999 or 112, shout for help, and throw something that floats. Do not go in after them.
- If possible, choose supervised swimming venues or pools instead of unsupervised open water.

**Remember: Enjoy the good weather, look out for your mates, and stay safe around water.**

# Nature, Numbers and New Discoveries

Over the half term, the Nursery children left the class butterfly project with Mrs Johnson to look after. Three of the butterflies emerged and were released into the city.

We are fortunate to have other lifecycles to observe in the Nursery garden. The most looked forward to is ladybirds. We have many larvae enjoying the warmth of the courtyard walls with many beginning to pupate.

The children have been exploring differences this week, comparing the hot temperature last week with what we measured on the thermometer this week. One of the Upper Nursery explained the difference, 'It's 19 now, we need one more brick to make it 20, which is two tens and another ten to make it thirty. Do you know, I think the difference is one ten and one and that's 11.' We love talking through our number questions and asking, 'what do we see and what do we notice?'

New children have been enjoying exploring new work. The photo below shows the introduction of continents, introduced in part by one of the older children.



Our seaside exploration introduces lots of new vocabulary to the children, especially those who are learning English as a second or even third language. As the children explored they added smooth, knobily, cloudy, shallow, spiky, ridged and sparkling to their discussions.

HB



# Pre-Prep Enjoys a Day at Blenheim Palace

Our Pre-Prep children recently enjoyed a wonderful educational visit to Blenheim Palace, where they spent the day learning about insects, butterflies, plants and the important role they all play in our environment.

The day began with an engaging workshop led by Jason, who introduced the children to the incredible world of insects. They discovered what makes an insect an insect and learned how insects differ from humans. By carefully examining models, the children found that all insects have six legs and three body parts: a head, thorax and abdomen.

Jason explained why insects are so important to life on Earth. The children were interested to learn that ladybirds help gardeners by eating pests that damage crops such as tomatoes. They also discovered that flies play a vital role in nature by helping to break down dead plants and animals. As larvae, or maggots, flies recycle nutrients back into the environment, ensuring that nothing goes to waste. This led to some thoughtful discussions about how everything in nature is connected and recycled.



The children also learned about butterflies and their life cycle, beginning as caterpillars before transforming into beautiful butterflies. While butterflies are admired for their beauty, they are also important pollinators, helping plants reproduce and create new seeds. The group met another helpful insect, the grasshopper, and of course discussed one of the most important insects of all: the bee. The children learned that bees help pollinate many of the plants we rely on and produce honey. They were interested to hear how, in some parts of China where bee populations have declined dramatically, people must pollinate flowers by hand using small brushes. This highlighted the importance of protecting bees and caring for our environment.



Next, the children explored the Butterfly House, where they watched butterflies feeding on slices of citrus fruit. They were amazed to discover that butterflies taste with their feet and that their skeletons are on the outside of their bodies. They also learned that butterflies have existed for around 50 million years and can be found almost everywhere in the world except Antarctica. The chrysalis cabinets provided another fascinating insight, revealing that caterpillars actually spend much longer in their larval stage than butterflies do as adults, with many butterflies living for only around 30 days.



While exploring, the children also reflected on some sobering facts about conservation, learning that 80% of butterfly species have declined since the 1970s and that several species have become extinct. This reinforced the importance of protecting habitats for insects and wildlife.

A particular highlight was singing an insect-themed song accompanied by a ukulele, helping the children remember many of the key facts they had learned throughout the morning.

The visit also included time in Blenheim's beautiful Walled Garden. Here, the children learned about microclimates and discovered why plants often struggle to grow during winter. They explored how the high brick walls absorb warmth from the sun, shelter plants from cold winds and create ideal growing conditions. Historically, these gardens provided food for everyone living and working at the Palace and today continue to supply produce for the restaurants. The gardens also contain dedicated areas for insects, encouraging pollination throughout the wider grounds.

The children examined pea plants growing in the garden and even had the opportunity to shell fresh peas from their pods. They noticed protective netting covering some crops and discussed how gardeners balance protecting plants while still supporting beneficial insects. They were particularly intrigued by bumblebees and learned that scientists are still fascinated by the remarkable way these insects fly despite their relatively small wings.

After a busy morning of learning, the children enjoyed spending the remainder of the day in the Adventure Play area. There was plenty of excitement with water play, zip wires, swings, tunnels, bridges, cargo nets, hidden chambers and a musical garden where different pipes created different sounds when struck. Our wellies proved especially useful!

The trip was a fantastic opportunity to bring classroom learning to life. The children returned with a greater appreciation of insects, plants and the natural world, as well as many happy memories from a fun-filled day at Blenheim Palace.

MH-W

# Woodland Bug Hotel is Open!



The wet weather provided perfect mini-beast hunting conditions for Pre-Prep this week at our Woodland School. The children set about finding materials to build habitat layers for our beautifully crafted bespoke 'bug hotels' positioned around the Woods. We then went on an extremely fruitful hunt for mini-beasts situated under logs, in stick piles, trees, and all manner of nooks and crevices. The children delighted in discovering earwigs, centipedes, slugs, snails, beetles, woodlice, flies, worms, and even a honey bee! We also created a bed of feathers and leaves in our hedgehog house in an attempt to lure a potential tenant in search of a piece of premium Christ Church real estate and a life of luxury!

A huge thank you to our wonderful Parents' Association for supporting our Woodland School with donations towards our habitat houses and a fantastic bug-hunting set, complete with magnifying glasses.

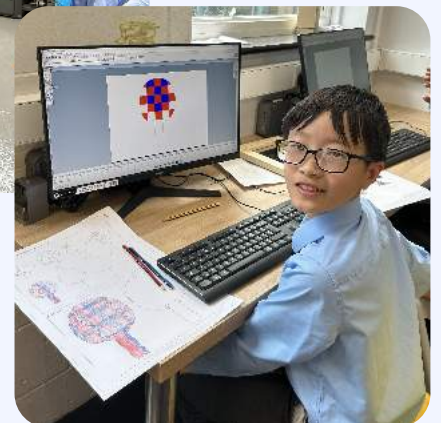
TR

# Form 5 visit St Edward's School



On Tuesday, Form 5 had a wonderful day with the Design Technology Department of St Edward's School. Their facilities for DT are superb and it was fantastic for our boys to have the chance to use them. They made two creations. First, they used a range of hand tools (including a particularly sharp type of Japanese saw) to create mirror frames. Then, after lunch, they made 2D designs using special software and watched them being printed onto foam using the huge, fast laser cutter. They were then able to press out the designs and use them to create unique table tennis bats.

Thank you very much indeed to all the St Edward's staff who looked after us so well, especially Mr Rush, Mr Hughes, Mr Thomas Benito and Jess from the Admissions team. You can see from the photographs how much fun we all had.  
AF



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# INSTAGRAM

AGE RATING

13+

Instagram is one of the most popular social media platforms in the world, with over 1 billion users worldwide. The platform allows users to upload images and videos to their feed, create interactive 'stories', share live videos, exchange private messages or search, explore and follow other accounts they like – whilst at the same time continuously updating and adding new features to meet the needs of its users.

follow

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

## ADDICTION

Many social media platforms are designed in a way to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. There's a desire to scroll often/more in case we've missed something important or a fear of missing out. Instagram is no different and young people can easily lose track of time by aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers or even strangers.

## PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users (particularly influencers who are sponsored to advertise products) to tag a product or business in their post. This tag takes viewers, regardless of age, directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased and where children may be encouraged by influencers to purchase products they don't necessarily need.

## EXCLUSION AND OSTRACISM

Young people are highly sensitive to ostracism. Feeling excluded can come in many forms such as: not receiving many 'likes', not being tagged, being unfriended, having a photo untagged, or not receiving a comment or reply to a message. Being excluded online hurts just as much as being excluded offline – with children potentially suffering lower moods, lower self-esteem, feeling as if they don't belong or undervalued.

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Product tagging on Instagram only works on public accounts. If your child wants to share their clothing style, make-up etc and tag items in a post then they may be tempted to change their settings to public, which can leave their profile visible to strangers.

## GOING LIVE

Live streaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real-time and comment on videos during broadcast. Risks increase if the account is public because anyone can watch and comment on their videos, including strangers. However, other risks include acting in ways they wouldn't normally or being exposed to inappropriate content or offensive language.

## INFLUENCER CULTURE

Influencers can be paid thousands of pounds to promote a product, service, app and much more on social media – the posts can often be identified because they state they're a 'paid partnership'. Ofcom found that young people often attempt to copy-cat influencer behaviour for their own posts to gain likes, sometimes posting content which may not be age-appropriate.

## UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children compare themselves to what they see online in terms of how they look, dress, their body shape, or the experiences others are having. The constant scrolling and comparison of unrealistic ideals can lead to children feeling insecure about their own appearance, questioning how exciting their own lives are and having a fear of missing out.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### HAVE OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to your child about live videos and the risks involved and how they can do it safely with family and friends. Talk to them about ensuring they have safety settings on so only followers can view them live, and maybe help them prepare what they would say when they do go live.

### FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Instagram is one social media app which has its safety features available to parents in a user-friendly manner. The document provides examples of conversation starters, managing privacy, managing comments, blocking and restricting and can be found on the Instagram website > community > parents.

### MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram has allowed users to change the focus of their experiences online away from how many likes a post has by hiding the like counts. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as hiding the like counts on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes you get. This can be done by going into settings > notifications > posts > likes > off

### REMOVE PAYMENT METHODS

If you're happy for your child to have a card associated with their Instagram account, we suggest adding a PIN which needs to be entered before making a payment. This can be added in the payment settings tab and will also help prevent unauthorised purchases.

### FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to your child about who they follow and help them develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, are they trying to sell a product by promoting it?

### BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram now has an in-built activity dashboard that allows users to monitor and control how much time they spend on the app. Users can add a 'daily reminder' to set a limit on how much time they want to spend on Instagram, prompting them to consider if it's been too long with a 'take a break' message. There's also the option to mute notifications for a period of time. These features can help you have a conversation with your child about how much time they are spending on the app and to set healthy time limits.

### USE MODERATORS

Instagram has launched 'live moderators' on Instagram live where creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and turn off comments for a viewer. It's recommended to keep devices in common spaces so that you are aware if they do go live or watch live streaming.

### BE VIGILANT AND REASSURE

Talk to your child about the use of filters. While they can be fun to use they don't represent the real them. If you find your child continuously using a filter, ask them why and reassure them that they are beautiful without it to build up their feelings of self-worth. Discuss the fact that many images online are filtered and not everyone looks 'picture perfect' in real life, which can also lend itself to discuss what is real and not real online.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/introducing-family-center-and-supervision-tools> | <https://about.instagram.com/en-US/blog> | <https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/introducing-family-center-and-supervision-tools> | <https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/introducing-likes-and-shop-tabs>

# House Music Competition 2026



As we've now received photographs from the finals of House Music, I'm delighted to be able to share them with parents and celebrate a terrific afternoon of cathedral performances from boys in the Prep department. A busy month of preparations had yielded over 250 auditions, which is proof of the extraordinary level of commitment and participation at every level from Juniors to Seniors. Our adjudicator Richard Dawson, visiting from Oundle School in Northamptonshire, was full of praise for the confidence and polish of our instrumentalists, with special congratulations for Form 8 boys who arranged their House Songs so skilfully (not to mention the extraordinary individuals who appeared as chimney sweep, Edwardian gentleman and hungry pigeon to conduct Sayers, Carroll and Wolsey...).



I am immensely grateful to the boys for throwing themselves into House Music with their characteristic energy and ambition, enabling us to put on a thoroughly professional and enjoyable afternoon of music-making. I am also very thankful to peripatetic and academic staff for guiding and supporting their pupils throughout their preparations - and to parents, for ensuring careful practice has happened at home! Congratulations go to our prize-winners listed below:

**Junior Category**

Winner: Yang L  
Runner-Up: Edward T

**Intermediate Category**

Winner: Alexander S  
Runner-Up: Thomas X

**Senior Category**

Joint Winners: Patrick D and Leo R  
Joint Runners-Up: William L and Ian Z



**Conductor's Prize**

William U

**Winner of House Singing**

Carroll

**Overall Winner**

Carroll

SB



# Trinity Term: Friends and Family Concert

**7pm, Wednesday 1st July**



Our annual Friends and Family concert will take place on the evening of Wednesday 1st July in the Walton Hall. The aim is to get as many people involved as possible, so do please get planning (and practising...). There are only two rules: boys must perform with at least one other person, and they must organise their own performances.

This is the opportunity for:

- Parents to perform with their children
- Pupils to perform duets with each other
- Family ensembles to play together

...and any other combinations you can think of!

Please email [biddell.s@cccs.org.uk](mailto:biddell.s@cccs.org.uk) with details if you or your son(s) would like to perform. A sign-up sheet will also be going up in school by the practice rooms.

SB

A photograph of two children in school uniforms playing on a climbing frame. The child in the foreground is a boy with brown hair, wearing a dark blue jacket with orange trim and a red and white patterned scarf. He is smiling broadly and has his arms raised. The child in the background is a girl with dark hair, also wearing a dark blue jacket with a 'CANTERBURY' logo on the chest. She is also smiling and has her arms raised. The background shows a brick wall and a window.

## Has your child outgrown branded school uniform items?

Please consider donating them to our Second-Hand Uniform Shop, where they can find a new home with another family.

Donations can be brought to the School Office.  
Thank you for your support!

# School Photobook

More from  
Blenheim  
Palace



# School Photobook



The countdown to School Sports Day is on!  
Our Pre-Preppers have been limbering up ready to  
take home the medals! From impressive domino  
tower building to tackling the obstacle course, these  
champions are ready!

[Go Pre-Prep!](#)



Woodland  
Bug Hotel



# School Photobook



Form 5 visit St  
Edward's  
School



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](mailto:franks@cccs.org.uk)  
Please do not bring any outside food into the School.