



Christ Church Cathedral School News

12th June 2026



Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

Today a large number of staff and parents attended the funeral of our former Registrar, Mrs Kemp at the South Oxfordshire crematorium. Peter, Laura's husband was very touched by the number of people who had come from the School. He had kindly asked me to give one of the talks at the funeral, given that the School had meant so much to Laura and that she had dedicated a great deal of her time to it over the past decade. Many of you have kindly written to me and I have been moved by the way in which Laura clearly had had a huge effect upon many of the parents. As such, I thought it would be appropriate to include some of the things which I said as a tribute to Laura.

Laura of course was from Liverpool and her northern spirit never left her. She had both the northern directness and the characteristic attendant kindness. There were few pupils who were not recipients of her care - her husband Peter told me that on many occasions pupils who had forgotten their bus money would be saved by Laura reaching into her purse to ensure that they got home. I never knew this as she never mentioned it to me - typical of the self-effacing nature of her actions- or if they had lost something, Laura would speed around the school visiting every nook and cranny (which she could do more quickly than anyone else) until she had found whatever it was that was missing.

As Registrar she was generally the first person that anyone saw when they came to visit and I have received many emails and messages from parents to say that the face they first met in the school was one of kindness and warmth.

I would like to quote a wonderful letter that was sent to me by one of our parents as it seems to me to sum up Laura so well.

“Sometimes God places people in our path whose kindness reaches further than they could ever know and we find ourselves filled with the lasting sense of gratitude that our paths crossed. For our family, Laura will forever remain the very first face of hope in the United Kingdom. Laura literally changed the destiny of our family by opening that school gate for us at a desperate moment. She helped people not because it was her job but because genuine care was an intrinsic part of who she was.”

Talking about people who work in schools, during the course of Cathedral Assembly this morning, I asked pupils what the lesson conveyed by the reading from St Luke’s Gospel. It was the moving passage of The Rich Man and Lazarus. One boy from Form 2 gave an immaculate and sophisticated answer which was beautifully and fluently expressed. “Gosh,” I said “ You sound as if you should be the teacher. Are you planning on becoming a teacher.” “Yes!” he shouted with great enthusiasm. What a heart-warming response. Nothing could be better than a future teaching in schools and how impressive to know that at the age of 7! Anyhow let’s see what happens.....

Very occasionally, when I’m out on Brewer Street and there is no one about, I take the opportunity to try to answer a quick email or two on my phone. Sometimes I try to use the dictation tool which I am finding increasingly helpful as I realise how much quicker it is than my rather cumbersome type-writing. Earlier this week a car appeared half way through a message. I forgot to turn the microphone off. A little later when I looked back at my message, I saw a whole string of greetings that had been recorded. “Good morning! Hello. Yes I’m fine thank you. How are you? Hello. Good morning. Yes what a lovely morning it is!” Though I have always thought that greeting people and discussing the weather are much more important exchanges than many people give them credit for, as they help to oil social wheels and confirm relationships, I was rather appalled by the lack of engaging contributions on my part. I want to say, therefore that I am so sorry if I don’t provide you with more stimulating communication in the morning and so I will try to be more engaging! I hope, in the meantime, that you have a good weekend – the forecasters tell us that sun is on its way at last. Oops sorry – I’m back to talking about the weather again..... Anyhow do enjoy it!

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 15th - Sunday 19th June

MONDAY 15 JUNE

ALL DAY: Form 5 Mock ISEB Pre-Test

TUESDAY 16 JUNE

ALL DAY: Form 5 Mock ISEB Pre-Test

9.30 - 11.00am: Nursery Stay & Play: Teddy Bear's Picnic

2.30 - 4.30pm: U8 & U9 Cricket v New College – Away

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE

ALL DAY: Form 5 Mock ISEB Pre-Test

2.15 - 4.30pm: U11 Cricket v New College - Away

U12/ U13 Cricket v St Anselms (Touring Side) - Home

THURSDAY 18 JUNE

ALL DAY: Form 8 Trip to London Science Museum

2.15 - 4.30pm: U8/U9 Cricket Vs Moultsford - Home

FRIDAY 19 JUNE

8.45 - 9.45am : Cathedral Assembly Confirmation, the Rt Revd Dave Jenings

Parents are welcome to join us in the Priory Room for coffee following the service:

12.00 - 4.00pm School Sports Day

12.00 - 1.00pm: Nursery & Pre-Prep

1.15 - 4.00pm: Prep

SATURDAY 20 JUNE

1.00 - 6.00pm: Old Boys and Form 8 Cricket Match, School Pavilion

6.00 - 9.30pm: Cathedral Choir 500th Anniversary Concert

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

Kindly note that this is an adult only event.



Nursery Stay & Play

Teddy Bears' Picnic

Tuesday 16th 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](#).



School Sports Day

Friday 19th June

School Pavilion, Merton Field

12.00 - 4.00pm

Calling the CCCS Cheer Squad!
Join us for another spectacular Sports Day on Merton Field!

We cant guarantee the weather, but we can promise fun, camaraderie and winners!

Please look out for an email from the School Office with further details.

LAST CHANCE
Deadline: Wednesday 16 June

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

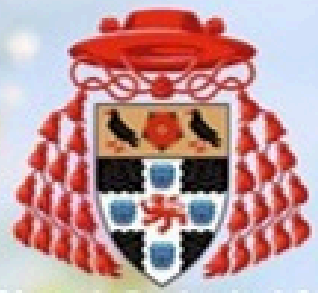
We look forward to seeing all the parents on
the evening of

Friday, 3rd 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
Mandarin Club Reception - Form 2 Form 1 Classroom 3.30 - 4.15pm	Multi Sports Club Reception - Form 4 School Field 4.15 - 5.00pm	Chess Club Form 2 Form 1 Classroom 3.30 - 4.30pm	Table Tennis Club Forms 3 - 8 School Playground 4.15 - 5.00pm
Cricket Club Forms 3 - 8 School Field 4.15 - 5.00pm	Chess Club Forms 3 - 6 Darwin 4.15 - 5.15pm		Mandarin Club Forms 3 - 8 Form 4 4.15 - 5.00pm
Real Tennis Forms 3 - 8 Real Tennis Court 4.15 - 5.45pm	Squash Club Forms 5 - 8 Squash Court 4.15 - 5.00pm		Little Musketeers Reception - Form 2 WWH 3.30 - 4.15pm
			Little Musketeers Forms 3 - 8 WWH 4.15 - 5.00pm

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

We do like to be beside the seaside...

The emerging ladybirds have prompted a reminder of how to work with magnifying glasses, holding the magnifying glass close to the object not your face.

Our seaside discussions have led to some large-scale group pictures of the seaside. We have also been developing our seaside vocabulary and our new word "moat" led to an afternoon making a castle with a huge moat in our sandpit.

It is fabulous to see the children working so well with new activities. There has been a lot of interest in sequencing and maths skills.

HB



Bonjour Paris!

Reception and Form 1 children boarded Eurostar on Thursday morning, tickets, passports and favourite teddy or soft toy in hand, ready for their mini trip to France. Luckily nobody got stuck at the border as business was brisk and all travel documents carefully checked and meticulously stamped or punched by the guards from F1 before departure – phew!



A scramble through the tunnel 'et voilà!', we arrived in Paris! After a sight-seeing trip in a 'Bateau Mouche' along the Seine we split into groups and followed a carousel of activities to learn more about the main sights of Paris. One of the activities included a visit to a 'boulangerie' and 'café' where the correct order in French was rewarded with a tasty croissant or pain au chocolat. This was definitely one of the highlights of our trip to Paris, although the trip organisers will have to cater for more 'viennoiseries' next time, as some of the teddies complained that they had missed out and had to share with their owners!

Far too soon our trip had come to an end and teddies and children were back on Eurostar heading for home. 'Come on, hurry up Eurostar is about to depart!' called a little voice from the Reception class. ... Au revoir, Paris and Merci beaucoup to all Form 7 Language Ambassadors and to Mrs Balu, Mr Morgan and Mr Roland who came on the trip and helped with the activities!
AEW



Children Become Business Owners!

This week in After School Care the children used their creativity, teamwork, and imagination to set up their very own shops and restaurants.

The children worked together to plan their businesses, deciding what products or meals they would sell, creating menus and signs, and organising their spaces to welcome customers. Dougie opened restaurants serving imaginative dishes, while the younger children created shops selling a variety of fruits and vegetables.

Through role play, the children took on different responsibilities such as chefs, shopkeepers, cashiers, waiters, and customers. They practised communication skills by taking orders, handling payments, and helping customers. The activity also encouraged problem-solving, cooperation, and early numeracy skills as they counted money, priced items.

It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and confidence the children displayed as they brought their ideas to life. Their creativity shone through in the unique shop displays, colourful menus, and inventive products they created.

The shop and restaurant experience provided a fun and engaging way for the children to learn and come together through play while developing valuable social and life skills.

Ms Merriman

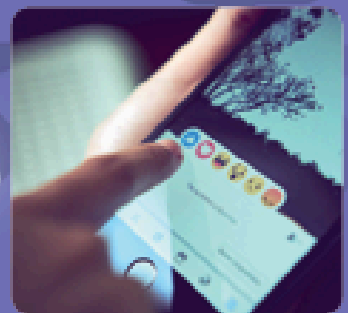




'Likes' are a simple way for users to show that they like a post on social media. This could be anything from photos and videos to status updates and comments. The feature is widely used on several social media platforms and is extremely popular on Instagram and Facebook. It is often used by children to measure the success of their social media post and gauge opinion. However, it can also bring a number of social pressures, particularly if users start to question their own levels of popularity.



What parents need to know about SOCIAL PRESSURES LINKED TO 'LIKES'



DAMAGING TO SELF-ESTEEM

Your child may use likes to measure their own self-worth, with more likes instilling a greater level of confidence and acceptance amongst their friends and peers. However, children who only receive a small number may in turn feel a sense of rejection or isolation and could potentially suffer from low self-esteem issues, impacting them in other aspects of their life such as at school or in social settings.



UNREAL VIEW OF THE WORLD

Your child may follow celebrities or other popular individuals on social media who receive millions of likes. Not everything on social media is a true reflection of the world and your child may feel pressured into behaving in a similar way in real life or posting similar material in order to feel popular and achieve a similar level of self-worth.



AN ADDICTIVE FEATURE

Like features encourage children to stay online for longer. In doing so, your child is likely to engage with apps for longer periods than they otherwise would have wanted, checking their phone more frequently, including at night when they should be asleep. This could contribute towards screen addiction which can cause sleep deprivation and consequently a lack of focus during the next day at school.



COMPETITIVE CULTURE

Children will often compare the number of likes they receive for their post against their friends or followers, possibly evoking emotions of jealousy or resentment. In a bid to increase their own status and receive more likes, this could lead to a competitive culture in which children try to better one another, potentially leading to the engaging in more and more riskier activities.



Safety Tips For Parents



FOLLOW OR BEFRIEND YOUR CHILD ONLINE

Using the same social media sites as your child and connecting with them online will allow you to keep an eye on what their interests are and who may be **influencing** them. Following their likes will help you build a picture of what your child is being exposed to and what they find interesting.



MONITOR MENTAL HEALTH

If your child does post on social media, it is important to monitor their feelings and emotions, supporting them and encouraging them to talk to you about what they may be experiencing. Explain to them that not everything online is real and that life is not dictated by how many likes a post may or may not get.



ENCOURAGE HOBBIES OR OTHER ACTIVITIES

Try to help reduce your child's screen time and need for social media through encouraging them to do other things, such as a sport or hobby or simply playing with friends outdoors. Supporting them to take up other activities that they enjoy can also help build self-esteem and increase their own confidence.



DISCUSS THE REAL WORLD

Talk to your child about online perceptions and about what they feel is and isn't important in their life. Try to establish an open and honest conversation and speak about what they feel is acceptable to post online and if they feel pressure to conform.

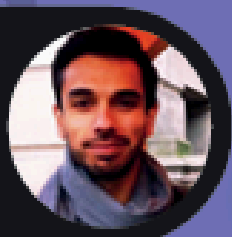


HELP TO BUILD YOUR CHILD'S SELF-ESTEEM

Try to help build your child's self-esteem through positivity and praise and listening to them if they are struggling with the way they look or feel. Talk to them about the positive aspect of their personality and help them understand that looks aren't everything. Try not to criticise or blame your child which could compound any negative thoughts they are already feeling.

Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/facebook-like-button-deletes-app-iphone-jail-break-restore-photos-a-788088.html>, <https://www.childrenscommission.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Child-Consent-Form-for-the-giving-of-Likes.pdf>, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/feel-good/2016/09/impact-of-social-media-on-childrens-mental-health>, <https://www.org.uk/about-us/about-the-organisation/2017/07/age-appropriate-design-considerations-for-public-social-media.pdf>, <https://www.familyline.org.uk/advice/parents/health-and-development/helping-your-child-build-self-esteem>

CCCS Family Ceilidh

The School hall was filled with music and the sound of dancing feet at the Ceilidh on Wednesday evening. There was plenty of spinning, clapping and laughing!

A huge thank you goes to all the parents and staff who helped at the event, the band and Emily the amazing caller who explained the dance moves! We are already looking forward to the next one!

SG



Second Hand Uniform Sale

Wednesday 24th June

3.00 - 5.00pm

Dorothy L Sayers Library



Donations Welcome

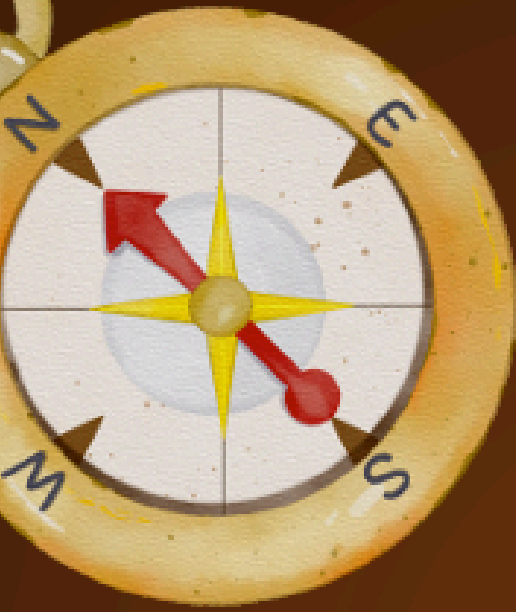
If your child has outgrown any branded school uniform items, we would be grateful if you could donate them to the School's Second-Hand Uniform Shop. Donated items can then be passed on to other families within our school community.

Please note that we are only able to accept branded uniform items and do not require non-branded clothing at this time.

Thank you!

TREASURE ISLAND

CCCS SUMMER PLAY 2026



Thursday 25th June

5.30pm

Merton Field

Come with all your friends

and bring a picnic

Aaarr! 



Form 8 Trip to Calshot

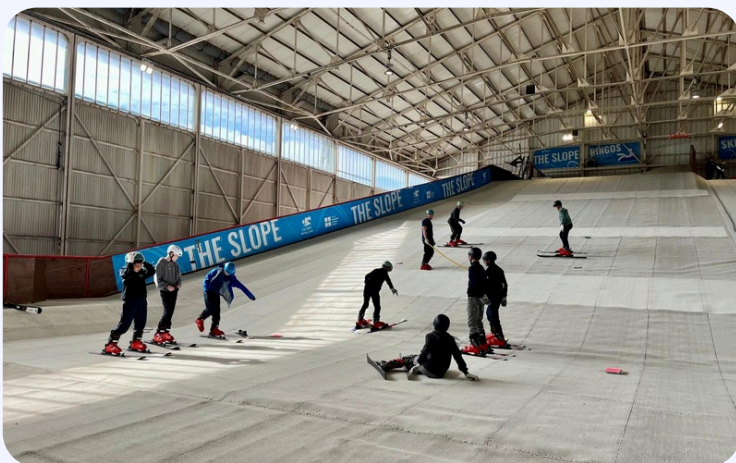


After a week of Common Entrance exams, Form 8 enjoyed a well-deserved trip to Calshot in Hampshire.

The boys have managed to cram in a lot in their time in Calshot, from archery to sailing, and ringo rides!

The boys had an excellent time and were great ambassadors for the School.

You can see more from their adventures in the [School Photo Album](#).



Pembroke College Chapel Choir perform Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral



On Monday evening, our Pembroke Choristers performed Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral.

The boys were outstanding, performing a programme that included beautiful psalm singing, works by Purcell and Dyson, and there was also a stunning solo of [Magnificat](#) performed by George.

MM



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:

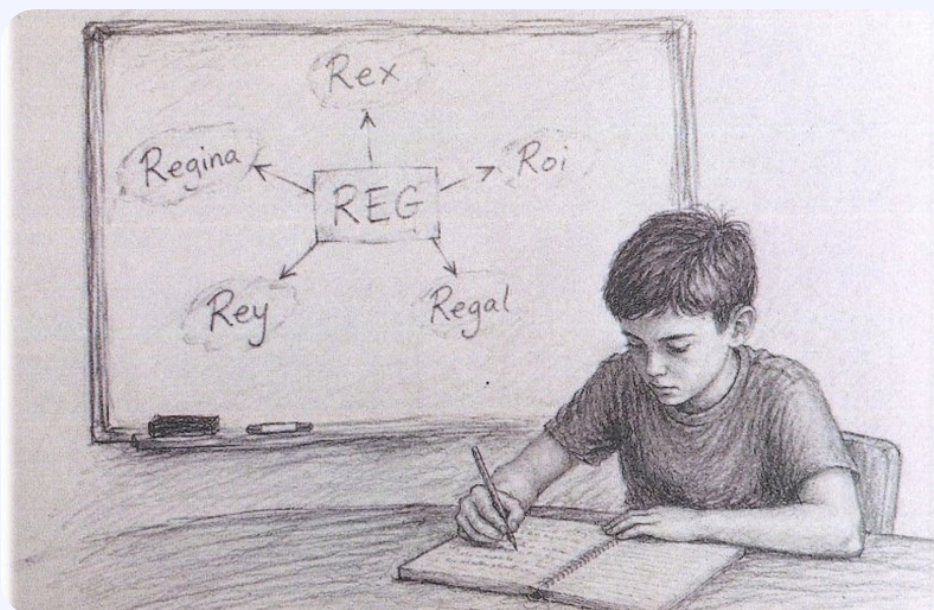
- Parents to perform with their children
- Pupils to perform duets with each other
- Family ensembles to play together

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

Please email biddell.s@cccs.org.uk 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

Latin for Philoglots



It is unlikely to happen, of course; but if one day the Prime Minister should take me aside and say, “Richards, I would have you design a Rational Curriculum that shall be for All Schools – yea, even unto the Sector hight Independent,” I should spring to the mission with alacrity; and aside from reinstating Carpentry, and making space for Architecture and Astronomy, Botany and Geology, I should institute from Years 5 to 8 a regular lesson called *Language*.

Language?! I hear you and the PM cry. Whatever would that involve?

I am glad you ask. In *Language* children would learn about the nature and workings of language in perspectives scientific and historical and philological and philosophical. Questions that would be raised (and sometimes answered) might include *Does our mother tongue affect the way we think? Why is we hair-trigger sensitive to grammatical slips yet stumble in grammar tests? How come in toddlerhood we learn our first language with easy rapidity, yet acquiring another after our first decade is (for many of us) strugglesome? Why do we put our verbs in the middle while Japanese and Turk are happy to put their verbs at the end? What do other animals think of our tendency to pass hours in inconsequential talk? What on earth is ablaut?*

And so on... A list of all the possible linguistic topics would burst the virtual seams of this electronic bulletin. But no, the Prime Minister is unlikely to ask: he has too many urgencies in his in-box. *Why then raise our educational hopes in one excitingly italic paragraph, you exclaim in tearful frustration, only to dash them in the next and blame it on the Prime Minister!* Yet be not dismayed. Language is already studied here by way of a subject long in place: Latin.

Elementary Latin can be an effective tool to learning about language. It is to linguistics as *lego* to architecture, *meccano* to engineering. The attentive pupil learns with Latin how the building blocks of sentences fit together in regulated fashion; that the verb is the crux of the clause; how adjectives ‘agree’; the neat way endings convey a noun’s function in a sentence. And Latin’s alphabet is used in a friendly phonetic fashion, helpful to poor spellers – unlike many a language I could mention. (Yes, I’m looking at you, Welsh.) Latin – at least the Latin we mostly do in school – is grammatically transparent, like those anatomical models that help students identify the internal organs of the body.

If linguistic training is the end, it may be objected, why not construct a quite regular artificial language with no grammatical or semantic ambiguity? That could be done; but we should miss out on other benefits of Latin. English vocabulary contains thousands of words derived directly and indirectly from Latin. (Half of the dozen words in the preceding sentence come from Latin, for instance.) The curious pupil often makes surprising and arresting discoveries of English's debt to Latin. ('Who would have thought that *wall, very nice and street* come from Latin?!' he exclaims happily. 'Now I know why the noun formed from *propel* is *propulsion*,' he nods with academic satisfaction. 'Ah, so that's what connects *tangent, tactile and tango*!' he mutters to himself, now that others in the class have told him to pipe down.) And should he wish to learn Latin's daughters Italian and Spanish (and he really should) he will find his Latin has set him up *muy bien* – or even *ottimamente*.

Another cogent reason to prefer Latin above some artificial lingo is that it is a venerable language, deep-rooted in our culture; a language amplified and refined by literary luminaries Cicero and Virgil, spun with artful design by the sophisticated Horace and Ovid; for centuries the *lingua franca* of Europe, and still with us in motet, motto and maxim. Our Latin-literate alumnus may well find his knowledge in keen demand by unLatined mediaeval historian or by young students of old literature, puzzled by strands of Latin in Milton and Marlow. Some of our pupils will take Latin far enough to read the very words of Virgil and Horace – something you need to achieve before you fully understand why it is worth achieving; but even those whose struggles with the tongue of Caesar end when they leave us will have gained, even if unconsciously, some insight into language in general and some awareness in particular of the significance of Latin.

Regular readers of this *Here's my subject* series may be expecting what-we-do-with-what-book-in-which-year specifics; but it seemed in the case of Latin more worthwhile to address in this forum the *why* rather than the *what, which, when*. Nuts and bolts may be found within the school website. (Memo to self: needs updating.)

As for the worth of learning about classical civilisation no apologia will be required by our cultured readership; and of course we try, as time allows, to feed pupils' interest (usually informed, sometimes no less than fervid) in ancient myth and history. (Indeed there is now a Classical Civilisation paper at CE – taken this year by a healthy number of Year 8s.) But discovering the rich world of Rome and Greece is not the strongest reason for learning Latin at this level. (You do not need to learn hieroglyphics before finding out about the ancient Egyptians.)

And some may be asking, 'But what of Greek?' Ah yes, *Greek...!* But Greek deserves many pages; and she might with justice feel short-changed to be tacked on in slim paragraph to a eulogy of her younger sister, Latin. Another Newsletter, perhaps. And meantime boys whose aptitude and eagerness in Latin have earned invitation to join Greek Club should be happy to report to the interested what they have learned so far of that influential language.

NR



Form 7 arranging the building blocks of a monster sentence.

Things to do at the weekend

View the array of coins at the Ashmolean (where there is a new exhibition of Roman coins from Oxfordshire).



Choristers studying a coin of Trajan...



...and the coin of Trajan they were looking at: Roman trampling Dacian

Sporting Stars

Jericho Fun Run

Early on Sunday morning some CCCS pupils took part in a one mile fun run in Jericho. It was perfect weather for a run, on traffic free streets. We ran through Worcester college's beautiful grounds and passed the local Synagogue. We ran up and down, left and right all through lovely Jericho. There were incredible sprints from the CCCS children to reach the finish line. To celebrate finishing the one mile race every child was given an ice cream and a medal made from wood. We later saw Mrs Green setting off for her long 10K run.

By Thomas and Oliver (F3)



Photo credit Ms Andrei



Photo credit Mr Khoo

Knight Frank Triathlon

Last Sunday, Teddy, Jasper and Louis took on the Knight Frank Triathlon at The Oratory School. The boys did extremely well, finishing fourth in the Year 3/4 category. Well done team!



Photo credit Ms Cheung

Chess Success

There was more success for CCCS pupils last Sunday, when Qiheng competed in the UK Chess Challenge Megafinal in Oxford, placing second and earning himself an invitation to take part in the Gigafinals. Well done Qiheng!



Photo credit Mrs Yeo



CCCS

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY

20TH JULY - 25TH AUGUST

8:30AM - 4:00PM

SPORTS & GAMES!

COOL CHALLENGES!

TEAM ACTIVITIES!

ONLY **£60** PER DAY!

BOOK NOW!

SCAN TO BOOK!

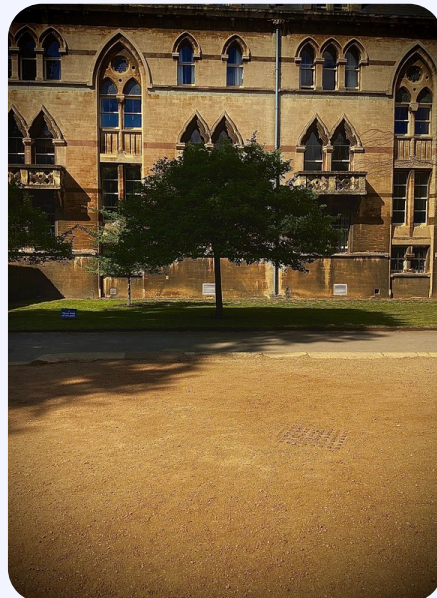


Enrichment

Photography Club

During Photography Enrichment, the boys have taken and edited their own photos. Very impressive skills!

DP





Whole School Photo

You should have received the below photo card to order your whole school photo. To order your copy, simply scan the QR code.



SCHOOL: **Christ Church Cathedral School** GROUP: **2026**

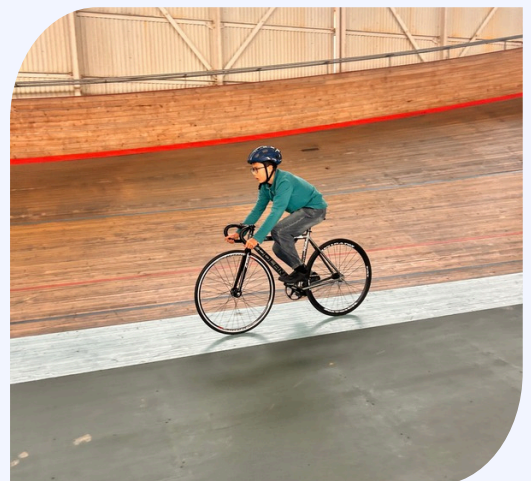
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School Photobook

Boys trip to
Calshot



Find all the photos in the school
photo album [here](#).

School Photobook

All aboard
the Eurostar
to Paris!



School Photobook

After School
care Business
Owners



Nursery
Adventures



What great
inventions are
DT working
on...?



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.