



Christ Church Cathedral School News

19th June 2026



Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

Sports Day was a real treat this year. We started with the Pre-Prep races at Noon. It is clear that the competitive urge begins early in life as I have rarely seen such intense determination. The only place where this was more obvious was the parent race afterwards where clearly the mothers and fathers wished to impress their offspring! The Prep Sports Day was a fiesta of competition and right up until the moment that Madame Loyer, in this case in her role as mother of the Head Boy, gave out the cups, everyone was doing everything to ensure that their house won. There can be no finer place to watch sport than Merton Field. It was a very happy day indeed.

I had a very enjoyable visit to the Woodland School this week. The Pre-Prep pupils had invited me to come over and share the delights of one of their expeditions to this world of adventure. I was conducted through the Woodland paths to all manner of residences. Propped up against a tree was a carefully constructed and bountifully kitted out bug hotel complete with reception, bedrooms and lounges. Elsewhere was a neat and tidy pair of hedgehog houses with comfortable bedding and space to relax. Attached to trees were bird boxes, and, at their foot, mounds of luxurious rotting wood for termites and other such creatures. Even more exciting were the dens that had been constructed to house the pupils themselves, who were, as I proceeded round the wood, running in and out of them like wasps in a nest. One of my favourite places was the fire pit where I found some of the pupils roasting marshmallows. Once these confections had begun to melt, they were removed from the furnace and placed between chocolate digestive biscuits. I was intrigued to sample one of these delicacies and have rarely had such an intense sugar rush. Having said this, the injection of energy which this process induced, allowed me to match the general level of excitement which I found!

Over the past few months the Woodland School has been completely transformed with the help of The admirable Christ Church gardening Team. It really now is a magical place.

This team is headed up by the admirable Steve Howe who took time out of his extraordinarily busy schedule to give a group of parents from the School a tour of all the Christ Church Gardens. The tour started in Tom Quad. Steve pointed out some small lavender bushes which he had planted around the edge of the quad. Their small size belied their extraordinary importance. As far as I understand it, these are the first plants that have been grown in Tom Quad in its 500 year existence. The tradition has always been that the quad should retain its austerity but Steve has managed to convince the Christ Church Governing Body to allow these small plants into the quad. For that alone he has made the earth quake!

Another innovation has been to return the round garden at the entrance to the Meadow to roses for the first time in a while. There are now some very fine examples of that most lovely of plants. These are already flourishing. Steve told me that he had discovered that when the school was located in the buildings in the Memorial Garden during the latter half of the 19th century, the Rose Garden was the School's playground. I suspect it is, aesthetically at least, a rather more pleasant area now than it was then! We are so lucky as a School to have such privileged access to so many remarkable places.

This morning we had our confirmation service where two of our boys were confirmed in the presence of the School. Bishop David Jennings who has conducted our confirmation services for a number of years, and is an old friend of the School, allowed the confirmation candidates to sprinkle their peers with holy water. This they did with great liberality and I had what amounted to a shower. Given that the water had been blessed I must now be in very good spiritual health.

One of the delights of being on Brewer Street in the morning recently has been the communal arrival of a group a pre-prep pupils who seem to arrive at about the same time. The moment one of the members of the clan is seen at the end of the Street, a great shout of welcome occurs and the new arrival is added to the fold. The greetings take on many forms; this morning one of the girls was hugged and then lifted off the ground. There is then usually a race to see who can get into the School fastest. The boy on the scooter shoots ahead but then loses his ground as he has to park his vehicle while those on foot speed on. So often we return to the great Bard of Avon, Shakespeare, for words of truth and inspiration but Brewer Street rather belies his rather miserable description of the School child from As You Like It "then the whining School boy, with his satchel and shining morning face, creeping like snail unwillingly to School." Clearly Shakespeare had never visited Brewer Street.

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 22nd - Sunday 28th June

MONDAY 22 JUNE

ALL DAY: Form 8 First Aid Course (WWH)

TUESDAY 23 JUNE

12.00 - 3.00pm: Reception, Form 1 & Form 2 Trip to South Oxford Adventure Playground

WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE

13.45 - 17.30pm: U12 & U13 Cricket v Bruern Abbey (Away)

2.00 - 4.30pm: U10 & U11 Cricket v Bruern Abbey (Home)

3.00 - 5.00pm Second Hand Uniform Sale (Dorothy L Sayers Library)

THURSDAY 25 JUNE

1.00 - 4.45pm: Music Exams

5.30pm: Summer Play Performance: Treasure Island (Merton Field)

FRIDAY 26 JUNE

8.45 - 9.15am : Cathedral Assembly, The Sub Dean

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

ALL DAY: Music Exams

Upcoming Events



Enterprise Day

Tuesday 30th June

2.00 - 4.00pm

Merton Field

Come and support our pupils as they showcase their entrepreneurial spirit with a range of stalls. From homemade lemonade and smoothies to bespoke games; the boys will keep you entertained, whilst raising money!



Friends & Family Concert

Wednesday 1st July

6.00 - 7.30pm

William Walton Hall

We are delighted to host our annual Friends & Family Concert.

We would love to see as many boys involved as possible, so please start planning and practising!

There are just two rules: boys must perform with at least one other person, and they must organise their own performances. We look forward to seeing the creativity and talent on display.



Speech Day

Friday 3rd July

2.00pm

Christ Church Cathedral

You should have received your email invitation for Speech Day. We would be delighted if you would join us on the last day of term to celebrate all of our pupils and their wonderful achievements this year.

Should you be unable to make the event, it will be live-streamed via the link below:

[Speech Day link](#)

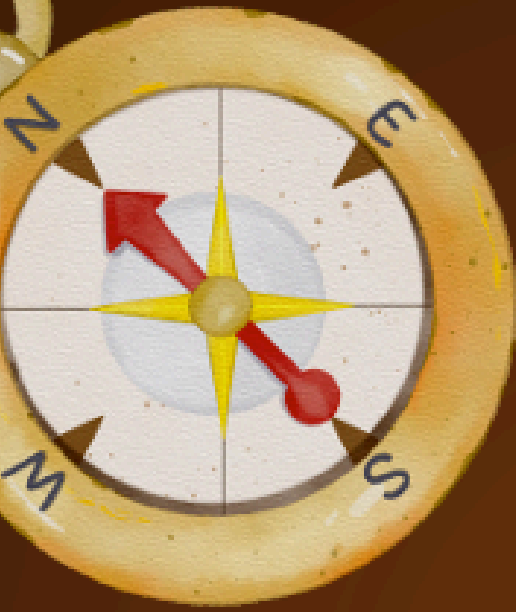
Pre-Prep's End of Term Celebration will begin at 1.15pm.

Prep Speech Day will begin at 2.00pm

We look forward to seeing you there!

TREASURE ISLAND

CCCS SUMMER PLAY 2026



Thursday 25th June

5.30pm

Merton Field

Come with all your friends

and bring a picnic

Aaarr! 



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

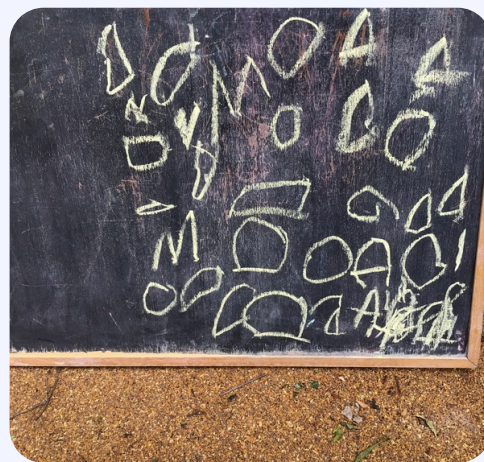
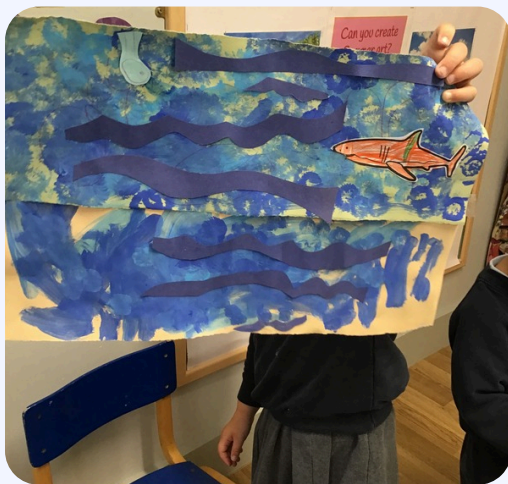
To book your child in to one of our clubs, please email schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk and confirm your child's name and Form group.

Under the Sea: Nursery create beautiful seascapes

The Nursery children have created beautiful seascapes, using mixed media. I like their pin poked sea creatures they coloured in so beautifully.

Thank you to Miss Hajar who has so kindly helped us this week.

HB



Cathedral Choristers relive their youth in Nursery

The Cathedral Choristers accepted the invitation to spend time in the Nursery garden on Wednesday. They all enjoyed building castles and fortifications in the sandpit, saying it was the best way to practically talk about their history and Latin!

HB



Out and About Club visit the Oxford Illusion Museum



All was not as it seemed for our 'Out and About Club' as we walked along the High Street and alighted with hushed tones at the Oxford Museum of Illusion.

The Pre-Prep children were immersed in an other-worldly experience, with upside down rooms, mind altering goggles, and all manner of incredible audio-visual paraphernalia and trompe l'oeils. It was all outrageously fun, and educational to boot, as our keen Pre-Prep brainiacs put their minds to solving the mysteries and scientific riddles within the museum.
TR



A Woodland Feast fit for a ~~King~~ Headmaster

Pre-Prep enjoyed another fantastic Cook-Out at Woodland School this week, this time with a VIP in attendance - Mr Murray! The children invited our Headmaster to join us for our latest woodland feast and we are sure that his 'sweet tooth' was suitably sated with our delicious campfire treats!

TR



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!

Form 8 visit the London Science Museum



On Thursday our Form 8 boys travelled to London to visit the Science Museum as part of their post CE leavers' programme. Much excitement abounded as we set off from school and headed to Oxford station to catch our train to London Paddington. Many games of Imposter and a quick ride on the Circle Line later, we arrived at the museum just in time for the first activity - a visit to the Power Up Interactive Gallery. This was a chance for the boys to explore a selection of the best video games and consoles from the past 50 years. Whilst Miss Biddell and I excitedly relived our childhoods on Sonic the Hedgehog and Frogger, the boys were also spoilt for choice and spent a very happy hour or so exploring video games old and new.

After lunch we split into smaller groups to explore the rest of the Science Museum. The Flight and Space gallery were particular favourites and boys enjoyed taking time to explore the many different exhibits. This was such an enjoyable day out and I was so impressed with how the boys conducted themselves, both in the museum and when travelling on trains and tubes.

Thank you so much to Mrs Ye and Miss Biddell for accompanying the trip, I think we will definitely need to make this an annual visit!

CS



Regius Professor's Inaugural Lecture: Theology in Music



I was delighted to attend the inaugural lecture of the Revd Professor Andrew Davison as Regius Professor of Divinity. Exploring how Christian theology has been expressed through musical settings of the Creed across a millennium, the lecture was interwoven with outstanding live performances by the Cathedral Choir of Christ Church Cathedral.

The programme, spanning music from the Renaissance to the twentieth century, provided a fascinating illustration of the continuity and development of theological expression through music. The cathedral choristers sang beautifully throughout, bringing the works to life with great skill and sensitivity.

Held in the Schwarzman Centre's new auditorium, the event attracted a full audience and it was wonderful to see such strong support from parents, colleagues, and members of the cathedral congregation. Their presence helped create a warm and celebratory atmosphere for this landmark occasion, which brought together theology, music, and history in a memorable and inspiring way.

JR

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

Cricket Chronicles

6B's vs New College

On Wednesday, the Form 6B's travelled to New College for a game of softball pairs. We lost the toss and were put in to bat. We batted really well with everyone managing to hit a boundary. Shoutout to Edwin who managed to get 15 runs, and Jaden with 16. However the top scorer was Sergey with an outstanding 20 runs which included 3 fours and a six! Also special mention to Gustav who hit 2 sixes and 1 four all within 3 balls! We finished our batting innings with a total of 89 runs, and with our strong bowling and fielding New College just fell short on 82 meaning CCCS took the win! Gustav and Terry both got a wicket each while bowling and Edwin had some amazing fielding efforts to stop boundaries, which was crucial considering how close the game was.

Mr Morgan.

Form 3 v New College

The Year 3 team travelled to play New College in a soft ball cricket game on Tuesday afternoon. Captain AJ won the toss and elected to bat, where he opened with Ashvith who started the team off well. The next few pairs continued with this momentum, with the team not losing a wicket until the last over of the innings. The boys set a challenging total and were excited to go out and field. The team was strong in the field, with both Reggie and Thomas making boundary saving stops and Oliver taking two catches for both of our wickets. Our bowling is constantly improving but with New College having some big hitters they ended up chasing down our total.

Mr Rowland

U12/ U13 v St Anselm's

On Wednesday 17th of June, the touring cricket team of St Anselm's played an en-route game of cricket against the CCCS first team.

And what a game it was!

With a strong batting start given by St Anselm's, the CCCS boys could see what they were up against - Clearly, St Anselm's knew what they were doing. However, with some great effort and energy out in the field, and some excellent wickets, the Christ Church Firsts kept the runs total of 93. With the Christ Church team having previously got 115 runs with 54 overs spare, there was some confidence from the boys. However, before the game, St Anselm's had let it slip that they were great bowlers. Indeed they were.

Using some very unique bowling techniques, St Anselm's wicketed two of our batsman within the first two overs. Not too long after, our final batsman was bowled out as the team of St Anselm's finished our innings with only thirteen completed overs.

The St Anselm's team also played a slip tactic, which meant that a few of our batsmen were caught by the clip of the bat.

Overall, it was a good game with St Anselm's winning with 93, and CCCS finishing with 62. It was a low-scoring game, but some excellent batting and bowling from both sides. Well done all!
John BE (Form 7)





CCCS

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY

20TH JULY - 25TH AUGUST

8:30AM - 4:00PM

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School Photobook

Out & About Club

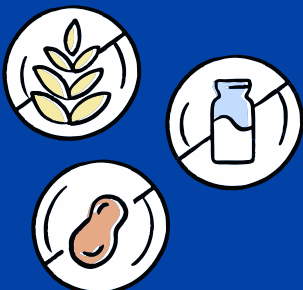


School Photobook

Cookout at
Woodland
School



London
Science
Museum



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.