The Cathedral

Christ Church Cathedral is unique in being the only Cathedral in the world to be also a college chapel. There has been a place of worship here since Saxon times. Built in the 12th century as a monastic church dedicated to St Frideswide, the patron saint of Oxford and Oxford University, it became a Cathedral during the reign of Henry VIII. Charles I lived at Christ Church during the Civil War and there are many famous thinkers, politicians, writers, scholars and artists associated with the Cathedral, which has some of the finest examples of architecture and stained glass in the country.

Christ Church Cathedral is not only beautiful and historic; it is also a working Cathedral, a living place of worship where prayers and services take place every day. The visits usually include the optional lighting of a candle and a short period of quiet reflection.

Students are welcome to take photographs inside the Cathedral.
What We Offer for all Secondary pupils

Our visits encourage Secondary students to Engage, Enquire, Explore, Evaluate, Reflect and Communicate, in line with the Diocesan RE Scheme of Work. We can tailor make your visit to enhance teaching of the National Curriculum in History and the R.E. syllabuses for Edexcel, AQA, and OCR.

A visit to the Cathedral can also help your students meet the agreed local SACRE and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural) learning objectives. It can also support use of the new RE teaching resource: 'Understanding Christianity' which helps teachers and pupils explore the significant theological concepts within Christianity as part of developing their wider religious, theological and cultural literacy.

Our school visits may include the optional lighting of a candle and a short period of quiet reflection.

School Visit options

1: Cross-Curricular Local Studies (Art, Architecture, English, History, Latin, Tourism)
The Cathedral offers a rich resource for students across the curriculum. In small groups, students may be able to learn about texts, images and artefacts in the Christ Church Archive and/or Library. Students studying Art may be able to visit our world-class Picture Gallery and then spend time drawing from observation in the Cathedral. The Cathedral is a microcosm of English History and can be used to develop students’ knowledge of key historical periods, such as the Saxons, the Middle Ages, the Reformation, the Civil War, the Victorians and both World Wars.

2: Medieval Life and Pilgrimage (RE/History)
Students can learn more about monastic life, the building of the Cathedral, and the nature and purpose of pilgrimages as spiritual journeys. During the guided tour of the Cathedral, there will be an opportunity to explore the impact of the Tudors and the Reformation on monastic traditions.

3: Grill a Canon (RE/Philosophy)
Come and interview one of our senior cathedral clergy about matters of Belief, Faith and Worship. This visit includes a tour of the Cathedral, and a Question and Answer session. Potential themes and topics: This session can be very flexible with a focus on a theme of your choice to tie into your RE and GCSE syllabuses, addressing themes such as: the study of Christianity; a religious community of local significance; beliefs and concepts; identity and belonging to a faith community; forgiveness; interfaith studies; Global issues, rights and responsibilities; Science and Religion; Meaning, purpose and truth- the ultimate questions of life; Values and commitments in faith-based living; Christian doctrine; Spirituality; Religion and the Arts; the history of Anglicanism. Particular topics may depend on the availability of our clergy, so please book in advance.

4: Cathedral Life and Christian Worship (RE)
This visit includes an introduction to the history and life of the Cathedral, from Saxon times and St Frideswide through the Reformation to the Oxford Movement. The guided tour of the Cathedral will focus on evidence of Christian beliefs, values, traditions and symbols and can be tailored to meet specific learning goals.
What We Offer for Sixth Formers and FE students

Option 1: Post-16 Seminars for sixth formers and FE students
As well as the secondary options above, we can offer bespoke seminars, led by one of our Canon Professors on a topic relevant to your AS and A Level syllabus.

This is a wonderful opportunity for students to be taught by world experts and also have a taste of university-style learning.

Potential themes and topics:
- Christian Controversies
- Religion and Morality / Politics / War / Film / Literature
- Ethics
- Global issues, rights and responsibilities
- Christian doctrine
- Early Church and/or Patristics.

Practical Information for School (full-time UK education settings)
Our education visits normally take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The average length of a school visit is 2 hours.

How to Book
Please apply to visit at least four weeks in advance.
To book, contact the Cathedral Education Officer, on 01865 286003 or email: education@chch.ox.ac.uk
Please inform us if any of your students have special needs or accessibility issues.

Fees
£4.00 per student (excl. VAT) for standard visit. Accompanying adults are free.
- The minimum charge is £50 (excl. VAT) per session.
- Specialist workshops and full-day education events have proved very successful but may carry an extra charge and be priced accordingly.
- Invoices will be issued to the schools by the Cathedral office.
- In the event of a late cancellation (less than two days in advance) we reserve the right to charge 100% of the cost. Schools will be invoiced for the number of pupils booked and changes (through pupil absences) will not be refunded.

Further practical information will be sent to you once you have booked your visit.
Staff are welcome to make a free pre-visit to the Cathedral. Please arrange this when you book.

More details can be found on our website at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedral/education
“The Cathedral was fascinating.”

“It was all interesting and intriguing, and I learned a lot.”

“The visit was inspiring….”

“Grilling a Canon was ….a great opportunity…”
Year 10 secondary students, Oxford

“Pitched perfectly for the year 8 group and very informative.”
Secondary teacher, Buckinghamshire

“Value for money: 10 out of 10.”
Secondary teacher, Oxford

“The seminar filled conversation in class for several days afterwards. For some reason our girls were under the impression that they were attending a seminar that had been organised for many Schools around and not just for them. They felt privileged to be there.”
School chaplain, Berkshire

For more information and to book, contact the Education Officer:
Christ Church Cathedral,
St Aldates, Oxford, OX1 1DP

Email: education@chch.ox.ac.uk
Tel: 01865-286003
Website: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedral/education