

5 August 2026

Dominic Bush
Senior Planner
Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Services

Dear Dominic

26/02109: CHRIST'S COLLEGE LIBRARY

Thank you for your email of 4 August in which you asked for some clarifications / further details on the proposed public access to Bath Court and the new library. I am pleased to provide these on behalf of the College.

As you know, currently Christ's College is open every morning of the year, apart from Christmas week and exam term. Bath Court is not. After the library is built, the College will open Bath Court to the public whenever the college is open.

The College is very happy to share its beautiful new library as much as possible. Of course, Christ's are erecting this building for their students and during term time, they will have exclusive use. Outside term time (and undergraduates are not in Cambridge for about half the year) the College will make the library accessible to the public.

We recognise that visitors will also want to see the interior of the library. So, on three days each week outside term time (initially Monday, Wednesday and Friday) we will arrange two, 30-minute tours of the library (at 10 and 11 o'clock). The tours will start at the Great Gate and include the new library, the Bodley and the new Exhibition Room. They will be bookable online via the College website, for up to 15 people, first come, first served. The librarian will run the tours.

In addition, on Tuesdays and Thursdays outside term time, the library will be open to groups of students/pupils from Cambridgeshire schools for tours and quiet study. Access will be for groups of up to 30 children (with the school providing appropriate supervision). The visits would last up to 90 minutes and take place during school hours. Again, visits would be bookable via the college website. The college will look for ways of publicising the offer in the city and county, including writing to all head teachers.

We recognise that this is uncharted territory for a Cambridge college. We would aim to develop the detail in light of experience but the offer will always be at least as generous as described.

As now, Christ's would not charge for any of this public access.

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I hope this answers your questions and you will agree that this is a very significant benefit to the wider public.

Yours sincerely



Planning and Heritage Director

