

SUMMARY: This document contains a program of studies for Oxford which was likely drawn up by one of Oxford's tutors in 1562 when Oxford first came to live at Cecil House as the Queen's ward. The body of the document is not in Cecil's handwriting, indicating that the program of studies was not designed by Cecil personally. However there are additions in Cecil's hand (shown in italics in the transcript below), indicating that Cecil exercised close supervision over Oxford's studies. One of the most noteworthy aspects of the document is that Oxford, at age twelve, was sufficiently fluent in both French and Latin to be able to read the epistles and Gospels in those languages. It would also appear from this document that someone named Frith was Oxford's dancing instructor, but unfortunately his tutors in other subjects are not named.

An Order for my Lord's Exercises

Morning

First, to rise in such time as that he may be ready to his exercises by seven of the clock.

From seven until half hour after, dancing.

From that time until eight, breakfast.

From eight unto nine, French.

From thence to ten, Latin.

After ten, one half hour in writing & drawing.

Then common prayers, and so to dinner.

Or, if Frith cannot come by seven, then

From seven unto eight, French.

From eight, one half hour at breakfast.

From thence to half hour after nine, Latin.

From thence to ten, exercise of his pen.

From that time to common prayers, dancing.

Afternoon

Afternoon exercises

From one until two, cosmography.

From two until three, Latin.

From three until four, French.

From that time one half hour, exercise with his pen.

Then common prayer, & so to supper.

Holidays

On the holidays

To read before dinner the epistle of the day in French,	}	
& after dinner the Gospel in Latin, or else to read both	}	<i>and to understand by some</i>
th' epistle & Gospel in thone tongue before dinner, &	}	<i>commentary any hard place</i>
in thother tongue after dinner	}	
All the rest of the day to be spent in riding, shooting,	}	
dancing, walking, & other honourable exercises,	}	
saving the times of prayer.	}	

morning:

~~*to be ready at 7*~~

~~*French till 8*~~

~~*breakfast and Latin to 10*~~

to be ready at 7

French and breakfast from 8

to then breakfast and dance to nine

Latin to nine

dancing and walking to 10

writing ~~and~~ drawing and prayers till 11

afternoon:

cosmography from 1 to two

French to three

Latin to 4

writing, walking till ~~half~~ prayers