



Weekly Newsletter

Friday 15th March 2024 | Issue 22

Dear families

We have had a busy and productive week here at Greyfriars in which I think we have experienced all weathers! We end the week, currently at least, with some spring sunshine. I hope it stays for the weekend especially.

Ramadan Mubarak! I had the great pleasure to represent Greyfriars at an event this week: an Iftar dinner at Mansfield College, hosted by the <u>Dialogue Society</u>. This was a time to come together as a community – in many aspects a multifaith community – to break the fast of Ramadan and think about Peace and Unity. As the society says, 'These gatherings are more than just opportunities to break the fast – they're where diverse voices meet, perspectives are shared, and friendships are forged. Our goal is to cultivate a stronger, more compassionate society through meaningful dialogue and open hearts.' It was a wonderful event and I am pleased to have spoken to so many people about how we can work together as a community.



It was a reminder of how talking with openness and kindness is always the route to success: to peace and unity. This term, we have focussed on how we shape our answers in our speech and, obviously, this event made me think about our school family and how we can work together to be successful. Part of our Greyfriars Way is giving 'Shaped Answers': speaking well to others in full sentences. It served as a reminder that what we teach moves well beyond the classroom: it is the formation of successful adults able to live and flourish in a diverse community. We will continue to work on ways we can improve students' confidence in speaking but this is also a useful tool families can use at home – encourage discussion without pride or defensiveness and 'shaped answers'.

Have a wonderful and blessed weekend.

With best wishes Lyndsey Caldwell Headteacher





WHAT IS GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ME THIS WEEK?

Gospel: John 3: 14 - 21



Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and

does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

Reflection

The coming of Jesus into the world leads to a choice: whoever chooses darkness will face a judgment of condemnation; whoever chooses light will have a judgment of salvation. The judgement is always the consequence of the free choice of each person. This is what we are called to do with greater dedication during Lent: to welcome the light into our conscience. Do not forget that God always forgives, always, if we humbly ask for forgiveness. It is enough just to ask for forgiveness, and he forgives.

O Lord, you who let your body to be taken, broken and given away for the life of the world, we pray that you would take our own broken bodies—broken by sickness, sorrow, shame, age or abuse—and bless them so that they might be instruments of blessing to our neighbours. In your name.

Amen



To view the St Edmund and St Frideswide (Greyfriars) parish website please click on the following link: https://www.greyfriarsoxford.uk/





Ashmolean | Mr Larsen

The artefact of the week is a CITRUS JUICER! You might have seen this in your own kitchen, but this is a very timeless design. This particular example is from Palestine around the 10th or 11th century, during the era of the Crusades. The fertile soil in the region mixed with the hot Mediterranean climate to make the perfect conditions for citrus trees such as lemons, oranges, and limes to grow, making them a staple for centuries of recipes.



Congratulations to BLOSSOM in year 7 for winning our draw! Come in to see Mr. Larsen in the library next Wednesday for your chance to win!

Sports News | Mr Dunne

Year 7 Football | Greyfriars Y7 6-0 Cheney Y7

On Tuesday our Y7's were in action for only the second time this academic year. After an emphatic 5-0 win away at Oxford Spires in their first match back in November they were eager to play another game - up stepped Cheney School. Team morale was high and this was evident on the minibus drive to Cheney as all of the boys created their own version of carpool karaoke but with a twist "Minibus Karaoke" (Mr Dunne even joined in).



Cheney were disciplined and presented us with quite a few problems early on with Alfie making some great saves to keep them at bay, likewise with Cheney's goalkeeper saving from Kevin and Joshua G to keep the score 0-0 at the interval.

The second half got off to a flying start with Kevin scoring 2 quickfire goals, the second a beautifully curved effort into the top corner to put Greyfriars 2-0 up. Further goals from Josh G (x2), Paulo (x1) and a sublime free kick from distance scored by Kaylun (x1) saw Greyfriars finish the game with a 6-0 victory. Special shout-out to Louie, our second half goalkeeper, for pulling off some stunning saves to keep Cheney out.

Everyone involved played a fantastic game and it was wonderful to see our year 7s representing our school and doing us proud.





Library Book of the Week | Miss Hall

Set in a dystopian future where most of humanity spends its time in the OASIS, a virtual reality world, "Ready Player One" is a thrilling journey that immerses readers into a story filled with 80s pop culture references.



We follow Wade Watts as he embarks on an exhilarating quest to solve a series of riddles and challenges set by the creator of the OASIS. The blends of nostalgia, action, and suspense weave a compelling narrative that keeps you hooked from start to finish. The book's exploration of the impact of technology on society and individuals feels timely and relevant, making it a must-read for anyone interested in science fiction, and the future of our world. "Ready Player One" is a captivating adventure that leaves you pondering the blurred lines between reality and the digital world.

Message for Year 7 | Mr Weedon

I have been visiting lessons throughout the week and Year 7 students have been working extremely hard – well done!

Our assembly this week was all about integrity; discussing our values. Students answered questions and looked within themselves to ensure they are thinking about how they want to be seen by others and how they should be treating each other.

7AGU have had a great week, having been mentioned twice by Mrs Masterson for their successful line-ups and being clapped by the whole school! A proud moment for students and tutor alike.

Well done to all the Year 7s who were involved in the science fair! It's great to see so many students getting excited about science and sharing their projects with parents, teachers and students!

Have a great weekend!

World Book Day Competition Winners | Miss Hall

Well done to all students who took part in the World Book Day competitions that ran in the library. Congratulations to the winners:

Book cover re-design | Tobias Short story | Prasanna Poster/Display | John E Character creation | Victor Quiz | Victor and Leonor







Message for Years 8 and 9 | Mrs Reddy

Exciting times ahead for our Y9s! The journey toward GCSEs and the importance of choosing options cannot be overstated.

On 18 March, the students will have a dropdown day for a taster session for each of the option choices offered. These choices pave the path for future academic and career endeavours. Attending taster sessions offers invaluable insight into potential subjects, allowing students to explore their interests and aptitudes.

Thereafter, on **Thursday 21 March** from **6pm** the Options evening will provide crucial information and guidance, aiding students and parents in making informed decisions about GCSE choices. Wisely selecting options not only shapes academic pursuits but also lays the groundwork for personal and professional growth. Every choice made now holds the Highest Achievement Points potential to unlock a world of opportunities and Well done to the following students – keep it up! shape a bright future. Choose wisely, and embrace the journey ahead. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you.

The Y8 and Y9 Leadership elective group are doing an amazing job at raising funds for the school's breakfast club. Their dedication and drive to ensure the smooth running of the club is amazing! Thank you to all that are supporting the cake sales we are currently hosting.

Careers News | Miss Manns

Careers Information and Events

For lots of useful information regarding careers, please click: OxLep Picks of the Week

CareersFest

Careers Fest 2024 is set to not only connect young people with some of Oxfordshire's best employers - but highlight significant career pathways available in the county - with a separate session targeted at parents and carers.

This will take place on 20th and 21st March 2024 at The Kassam Stadium, with a 'twilight' session for parents and carers on 20th March with slots from 16:30-18:00 or 18:00-19:30. For more information and to register:

CareersFest

8BK Isabelle 8CT 8SA Nadia Jesse 8JOD 9SC Brisa Achi 9FA 9KI 1 Izzv Anna

Congratulations to all students with 100% attendance.

Thank you to the tutors for their ongoing support.

Keep on striving to be a better version of yourself Y8 and Y9!





Sparx Update | Mr Secker



Sparx Maths WEEK 24

Sparx Superstar tutor groups this week

| Form | XP Week Average | |
|------|--------------------|--|
| 11FD | 172 | |
| 10JS | 217 | |
| 9SC | 412 | |
| 8BK | 254 | |
| 7KA | 445 | |

Leading Year Group

| Year group | XP Average | |
|------------|------------|--|
| 7 | 311 | |
| 8 | 291 | |

Sparx XP Champions this week.

| 11 | 2,235 |
|----|---|
| 11 | 1,849 |
| 10 | 3,240 |
| 10 | 2,609 |
| 9 | 3,571 |
| 9 | 3,338 |
| 8 | 5,018 |
| 8 | 3,452 |
| 7 | 4,859 |
| 7 | 2,360 |
| | 11 11 10 10 9 9 8 8 7 |

540,809

Sparx XP Champions All Time 15/03/24

| Mahbod S | 8 | 233,435 |
|---------------|----|---------|
| Ana Paula C R | 8 | 161,307 |
| Jack C | 8 | 149,781 |
| Isabelle H | 8 | 144,553 |
| Klea L | 8 | 138,977 |
| Hajira R | 10 | 116,855 |
| Mark B | 9 | 106,740 |
| Kryspin B | 9 | 97,228 |
| Peace O | 11 | 94,392 |
| Da Vinci T | 7 | 88,038 |



Ofsted

active

We're recruiting experienced and passionate staff to

work in the school holidays and all year round. With shifts from 8:30am - 5:30pm, we need:

Camp Managers £15 - £17 per hour Activity Leaders £8 - £14 per hour

School holidays

Easter (From 25th March - 19th April) May (From 28th May - 31st May) Summer (From 15th July - 30th August)



oxfordactive.co.uk

Scan the QR code to find out more and to register your interest.



GREYFRIARS Multi-activity holiday clubs for young people

AT GREYFRIARS SCHOOL

How to book your session for either a normal activity 9 am to 5 pm day or a lunchtime drop-in session

By clicking the Book Now button or scanning the QR code, you can choose and book free HAF activity sessions from a selection that will be on offer. You will be asked to input a code when booking. Your school should distribute the code.

he programme will offer free holiday activities to school-aged children who are in Reception- Year 11 and who receive benefits-related free school

4th, 5th, 11th and 12th of April 9 am to 5 pm

BOOK NOW





and 12th of Multi-activity holiday clubs for young people 9 am to 5 pm

AT GREYFRIARS SCHOOL







Vacancies | Exam Invigilators x 3 - £12.80 per hour

Greyfriars is looking for three casual Invigilator's to work with our exam's team to help the smooth running of exams at our school.

Responsibilities will include the correct conduct of external examinations in accordance with JCQ regulations and procedures issued by the Examinations Manager.

An ideal candidate will:

- ✓ be reliable, flexible and readily available during main exam periods
- ✓ have effective communication skills and good interpersonal skills
- ✓ work well as part of a team
- ✓ be confident and a reassuring presence to candidates in exam rooms
- ✓ be able to give instructions and manage situations involving different groups of people
- ✓ have basic IT skills (familiar with use of email, mobile phone messaging etc.)

Main duties

- To conduct examinations in accordance with the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), awarding body and Greyfriars Catholic School regulations and instructions
- To have a key role in upholding the integrity and security of the examination/assessment process

Application Details

We hope you are interested in this exciting opportunity and would like to submit an application. To apply for the post of Invigilator, please contact the School Business Manager, Sophie Upellini Email: s.upellini@gfcs.uk or Tel: 01865 749933

Greyfriars Catholic School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant for any position will be required to undertake an enhanced disclosure via the DBS (disclosure and barring system) and appropriate Right to Work clearances and our recruitment and selection practice

The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company (PFMAC) is a family of Catholic schools in Oxfordshire, who work together to promote the teaching of Christ and the Catholic faith.





5 Ways to Well-being Click on the logo to find out more.











TALK & LISTEN, BE THERE, FEEL CONNECTED

DO WHAT YOU CAN, ENJOY WHAT YOU DO, MOVE YOUR MOOD REMEMBER THE SIMPLE THINGS THAT GIVE YOU JOY EMBRACE NEW EXPERIENCES, SEE OPPORTUNITIES, SURPRISE YOURSELF

Your time, your words, your presence

Building small actions into your daily life can make you feel good, and feeling good is an important part of being healthy. There are 5 ways to wellbeing that are proven to make a real difference to you.









Dates for your Diary

18 March | Year 9 Options Taster Day

18 March | Year UCAS Exhibition, ExCel London

19-26 March | Scholastic Book Fair

21 March | OxLep Careers Fair Trip, Kassam

21 March | Year 9 GCSE Options Evening

25 March | Year 11 and Year 13 Group Photographs

28 March | Last day of term (early finish)

29 March - 14 April | Easter Holiday

15 April | INSET Day – No students in school



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is open
Mon – Fri 8.00am - 8.30am
in our restaurant.

Everyone is welcome to come and join us for breakfast club.

Breakfast is free. Start your day with friends and food!

SIMS Parent App – Download Now!

If you haven't already done so, please download our Parent App. This app enables you to view information regarding your child at school including their timetable, achievements, reports and messages from school. You should have received an invitation email that you must accept and this will then take you to a sign-in screen. You can then use your normal Facebook, Twitter, Google or Microsoft username and password to register.









Vacancies

If you are interested in joining the team at Greyfriars Catholic School, please email our School Business Manager, Sophie Upellini via: s.upellini@gfcs.uk or visit: tes to view all our current vacancies.





OPPORTUNITIES

OxLAT Latin Teaching Scheme 2024—2026

The Faculty of Classics is again able to offer its Latin teaching scheme, OxLAT and is inviting our students to apply.

The OxLAT Scheme students in Years 8, 9 and 10 (13—15 year olds who will be going into Years 9, 10 and 11 in September 2024) who are interested in studying for a GCSE in Latin. The Scheme offers eligible students free tuition in Latin language and literature from scratch through to GCSE examination.

Weekly two-hour lessons take place every Saturday morning during school term-time at the Faculty of Classics (66 St Giles, Oxford) and are taught by two professional Latin instructors: they will start in June 2024 and continue for two years until the summer of 2026 when students will sit their Latin GCSE exams.

The academic programme of the scheme replicates the teaching students would experience if they were taking the subject as a GCSE option at school (albeit in a reduced timetable and with greater focus on independent learning): students will be expected to consolidate their classroom learning with appropriate study-time at home each week, aided by the Scheme's VLE system. Homework will be roughly the same as one would expect for any GCSE subject.

If you are interested full details and application forms are available at:

https://clasoutreach.web.ox.ac.uk/oxlat







OPPORTUNITIES

















LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES











