



Weekly Newsletter

Friday 22nd March 2024 | Issue 23

Dear families

We are coming to the end of term with no hint of slowing down! We have had a packed week here. Part of the week started at Oxford Magistrates Court, where we took part in the mock trials, a schools competition where students take all the roles in a court case. Last week, I talked about the importance of being able to talk publicly – how dialogue is how we find peace and unity in our community. This is especially important when it comes to speaking up for others. I was so proud of our students and how they stood up and spoke in a courtroom, or took part in various ways – magistrates, ushers, defendants, witnesses. It is a wonderful event. I am delighted we won best witness and best usher! It is so difficult to overcome nerves to do these roles – most adults would also be terrified. It was a great start to the weekend.

We have also been busy with Y9, who have had their Options Week. They had taster sessions and a wonderfully well-attended Options Evening for families last night. It was a joy to see so many families so committed to their child's success and have so many conversations about the future and how they might transform the world. A special thanks to all the staff for the work they do to make this such an informative event.

This is our last newsletter of the term. We come to the end of Lent and welcome Easter. Easter is a time of rebirth, new life and freedom. Lent allows us to free ourselves from habits through sacrifice and Jesus' resurrection gives us comfort. Our faith has the power to heal sadness and bring us joy and awe. This weekend is one of my favourite masses — Palm Sunday. It is a time to pause and renew our faith and remember that we too can love through God's love for us.

Have a peaceful and blessed Easter holiday and Eid Mubarak – when it comes over the holiday – to our Muslim families too.

With best wishes

Lyndsey Caldwell Headteacher





WHAT IS GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ME THIS WEEK?

Gospel: John 12: 20 - 33



20 Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.21 These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.'22 Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus.23 Jesus replied to them: Now the hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified.24 In all truth I tell you, unless a wheat grain falls into the earth and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies it yields a rich harvest.25 Anyone who loves his life

loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me, must follow me, and my servant will be with me wherever I am. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. 27 Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it is for this very reason that I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name! A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will again glorify it. '29 The crowd standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.'30 Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 31 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be driven out. 32 And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all people to myself.' 33 By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Reflection

Jesus tells us his hour had come. The time to see him had come and gone. He tells us that like the kernel of wheat his death would bring a greater fruitfulness. Jesus came to be our king; his coronation wouldn't end on a golden throne but on a wooden cross. The purpose for coming to earth had always been to give his life. And now we must ask if we are willing to follow him there.

Lord you invite us deeper into your world. Your people, your lent. May this time be one of outward focus seeking you in those we often ignore. Help us live a lent focused on freedom, generosity and encounter.

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 was: a Victorian razor! While it may look like a pocket knife today, what is left of its blade indicates it's true purpose. Much like in today's world, men's facial hair and grooming was a big industry. Razors such as this one were used by men of all classes to trim their beards and moustaches to whatever wacky fashion was popular each year.

Congratulations to JOHN in Year 7, who won this week's prize! Check in next Wednesday for our last artefact of the term!

Careers Fest | Written by Erin, Amy and Stuthi

On Thursday, 21st March, Year 10 and 12 students were lucky enough to attend a careers event at Kassam Stadium, organised by OxLEP. This event included an overwhelming amount of opportunities from around many different employment sectors; from the NHS to Morgan Sindall Construction.



The students had valuable conversations to build their confidence and find work experience with people from all over the careers industry. This was an extremely helpful experience for those with interests in accountancy, medicine, engineering, Ministry of Defence, STEM, sport and so much more! The employers were generous enough to offer multiple informative pamphlets with contact details, as well as several souvenirs.

We are extremely grateful for this opportunity given to us by local employers and our school staff who arrange events like these to help guide us in our next steps.

Choir Performance | Mr Dingley

On Friday morning, 35 students from our choir went to sing at Our Lady's Catholic Primary School in their celebration assembly. Students performed fantastically, bringing tears to two members of staff's eyes! They proudly represented our school and were excellent examples of brilliant Greyfriars students.







Library Books of the Week | Miss Hall



The "Scarlett and Ivy" series by Sophie Cleverly is a captivating collection of mystery novels that feature the twin sisters, Scarlett and Ivy, who are sent to a gloomy boarding school, Rookwood, following a series of unfortunate events. The plot is engaging and filled with suspense, as the sisters unravel the school's dark secrets and cover-ups. Cleverly does a fantastic job of creating an eerie and mysterious atmosphere that pulls you into the story, making you eagerly turn the pages. The writing style is accessible and descriptive, making it a great read for its target audience and even older readers. The characters are well-developed and relatable, each with their own unique traits and quirks. The bond between Scarlett and Ivy is particularly well-portrayed and is at the heart of the series. Overall, the "Scarlett and Ivy" series is a thrilling and entertaining read that combines mystery, adventure, and the bonds of sisterhood. It's a must-read for fans of mystery novels and young adult fiction. With the Easter holidays coming up, it's a great time to sink into a good series!

Food Technology | Mrs Awanyo

Well done to Fatima and Isabelle and the rest of Year 8 food technology for baking some beautiful cupcakes and exploring varied decoration techniques. They were so soft and tasty and the splash of colour made our eyes pop with excitement.

Delicious!







Sixth Form News | Mr Shaw

UCAS Discoveries Exhibition

Students had a good time perusing the various University and Apprenticeship stands at the 2024 UCAS discoveries at the London Excel centre. Gaining a bit of insight into what the next step in their educational journey might look like. They were also happy with all the tote bags of goodies that were being handed out. There really is a world of amazing opportunities awaiting our sixth formers.

Career Fest

Yesterday some of our Year 12 students headed off to the Kassam stadium for the Careers Fest 2024, which was another opportunity to see what career options there are and not only connects young people with some of Oxfordshire's best employers but highlights significant career pathways available in the county.

Exam ready Year 13s

Again we have reached this critical time of year just before Easter, when sixth formers need to be thinking about the work and revision to be done over the Easter Holidays. It is important that students get their revision planners prepared so that psychologically everyone is in the best place to get over this last hurdle and make the best of all the hard work that has taken place over the last two years.

Let's make the Easter holidays count!

Greyfriars Science Fair | Mr Turner

This year's science fair was very well supported with seven teams making it to the final judging with topics ranging from Hydroelectric power to Cloud Chambers to a study of neutrinos. The students all excelled both in their presentations and the materials they made, with a large leaf-blower hovercraft floating across the floor! The judging was difficult and the votes cast showed a very tightly fought competition.

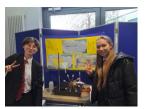


1st place
Fatima and Isobel
Year 8
Study of Asthma.





Joint 3rd Place



Arina and Marharyta Year 8 Hydro Electric



Ava, Lilly and Ana Paula Year 8 Hovercraft Team

All the projects were brilliant and everyone should be proud of the work they produced.





Maths | Mr McCutcheon

Dari has made a maths video about his homework - take a look!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTr0soQGbdk

Careers News | Miss Manns

Careers Information and Events

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

Join East Oxford Parent Power at Bournemouth University on Saturday 20th April.

East Oxford Parent Power, a group supporting parents and carers to explore their children's next educational steps, are running a free visit to Bournemouth University for all families in East Oxford.

The coach will depart from Rose Hill Community Centre at 8am on Saturday 20th April, and return to Oxford around 6pm that evening. The visit will include a tour of the university campus, a chance to speak to student ambassadors about their experience of university, an opportunity to view student accommodation and the chance to explore the city of Bournemouth as a whole.

If you are interested, please complete the registration form here: Registration Form

If you have any questions, please contact: parentpoweroxfordshire@thebrilliantclub.org

Music and Science Workshops | Mr Dingley

On Friday, 20 students from Year 9 got to take part in the first session of our Music and Science workshops. They had a university-style lecture from Professor Paul Klenerman from Oxford University and then a series of sessions looking at viruses, the immune system and vaccines. This project continues after half term where students will be creating music in response to the concept of vaccine memory, leading to a performance at the John Radcliffe Hospital in June.









Message for Years 10 and 11 | Mr Strachan

As we approach the conclusion of what has proven to be a robust half-term, and as we contemplate the significance of the upcoming Easter season, let us pause to reflect on the profound sacrifice made by Christ the Saviour for each of us, inviting us to embrace the boundless Glory of God.

Throughout this half-term, it has been a source of immense joy to witness the personal and academic growth of our students. They have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to becoming the finest versions of themselves, a journey that is both fulfilling and challenging. As we anticipate the forthcoming break next Thursday, I extend my heartfelt wishes for a restful and rejuvenating respite to all our Year 10s and 11s.

Greyfriars PTA

Why not come along to our next parent teacher association meeting?

The meeting will be held online on

Tuesday 16 April 2024 at 7pm.

There is no obligation to sign up, however, you might like to join us and see what the group does – support can be given in a variety of ways.

Please contact Sophie Upellini via s.upellini@gfcs.uk

if you would like an online meeting invitation.

At this moment, however, I am compelled to honour a select group of students who have exhibited remarkable diligence not only in their conduct and academic endeavours but also in embodying the values of Greyfriars through their outstanding accumulation of points throughout this term thus far.

The celebrated students with the most points so far this term are as follows:

10JS
1 Erin 278
2 Stuthi 269
3 Amy 262

10MMH			
1 Lusi 2	261		
2 Senhalia	209		
3 Phoebe	198		

11FD			
1 Stethuli	342		
2 Peace	322		
3 Renars	296		

TIDHO			
1 Annie 141			
2 Maryiam 115			
3 Marco 93			

11DT		
1 Rebecca 194		
2 Bailie 155		
3 Baykan 154		

10WK			
1 Mel	289		
2 Abigail	281		
3 Stephani	ie 265		

11KBH				
1 Dominion 210				
2 Gabriel 205				
3 Sneha 167				

11MJ			
1 Luna 255			
2 Joel 243			
3 Francisco 242			

TTKIVI				
1 Tobias	167			
2 Camily	163			
3 Benjamin	148			





Message for Years 8 and 9 | Mrs Reddy

Thank you all those families who attended the Year 9 Options Evening - the room was buzzing with energy! Parents and students alike were brimming with curiosity, emphasising the importance of making informed choices for GCSE subjects. Your engagement highlights the collaborative effort in empowering students to map out their educational paths. Let's continue to cultivate this enthusiasm for learning, and greater academic success and personal growth. Don't forget to make your first and back up choices via SIMS online!

The Year 8 and Year 9 Leadership elective is going from strength to strength! Thank you to those of you who have donated Easter eggs and supported the cake sales that are currently being held. Please show your support in buying raffle tickets for the Easter egg hunt next week. All proceeds will go towards the breakfast club.

Highest Achievement Points

Well done to the following students – keep it up!

8BK Isabelle **8SA**Jesse

8CT Nadia

8JOD Anna Paula

9FA Izzy

9KI Anna **9SC** Achi



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

There has been some amazing work this half term, with special mention to Year 8 who have really stepped up in term 4.

All level up certificates will be handed out in tutor time next week and Sparx Awards for the champions handed out in assembly.



Sparx Maths WEEK 25

Sparx Superstar tutor groups this week

Form	XP Week Average
11DHU	192
10WK	187
9SC	192
8JOD	354
7AG	265

Leading Year Group

Year Group	XP Average
8	255
7	241

Sparx XP Champions this week.	Sparx)	XP C	hamp	ions th	is weel	ζ.
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		XP POINTS
Dylan M	11	2,235
Edima O	11	1,949
Divo D A S	10	1,240
Sophia P	10	1,109
Sofia B	9	4,571
Mark B	9	3,138
Natasha J	8	5,418
Ana Paula C	8	4,952
Da Vinci T	7	3,359
Vielnia O M D A	7	2,360

440,809

Sparx XP Champions All Time 22/03/24

Name		Total XP
Mahbod S	8	235,435
Ana Paula C R	8	167,307
Jack C	8	150,221
Isabelle H	8	147,553
Klea L	8	139,577
Hajira R	10	117,855
Mark B	9	109,740
Kryspin B	9	98,928
Peace O	11	95,292
Da Vinci T	7	92,038



Well done everyone!





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 New button or scanning the OR 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.

The 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







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

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

16 April | First day of Term

17 April | RAF Benson Trip

23 April | Y9 TDP/MenACWY Immunisations

25 April | Year 10 Mock Interviews

2 May | Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening



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













OPPORTUNITIES

















LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

















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

