

Weekly Newsletter Friday 19th April 2024 | Issue 24

Dear families

We are delighted to welcome our students back for Term 5. This is the start of our summer term and so is a time for us to think about our next steps. Therefore, our theme for this term is being attentive to the future. For our Y11s and Y13s, this is a tangible end with exams starting in just a couple of weeks. The Gospel this week was the Road to Emmaus. It is a story of hope, trust and faith. When times are difficult or we are trying to make sense of things that seem impossible to understand, our faith in God can guide us.

This week hope and trust have been the theme of our assemblies. Looking for where we trust others and have hope. Specifically, this term, we want students to think about why school is brilliant – it's amazing that all of these people come together to support the young people in our community to learn. We want students to talk about what they enjoy about that and where they can see the trust and hope we have in them. I am looking forward to it!

As an example, we have had a group of girls go to RAF Benson this week. This was a trip to 'See What you Can Be'. This was to inspire young women and there was a diverse group to learn from including the military, reservists, veteran and civilian women who shared their inspirational experiences and careers with students.

Term 5 is brilliant: as someone who has completed many long-distance challenges – swimming, cycling and running – I enjoy getting to the goal. For Y11 and Y13, a large part of the goal of their education is about to happen. I cannot help but be excited by this – fired up and ready to go! And this is how we are starting Term 5: Fired up. Ready to go!

With best wishes

Lyndsey Caldwell Headteacher





WHAT IS GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ME THIS WEEK?

Gospel: Luke 24 : 35 - 48



³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread. **Jesus Appears to the Disciples** ³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and

frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." ⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence. ⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

Reflection

"Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? These are the very common and popular questions asked by God in the gospel. But because many are accustomed to the idea of "to see is to believe", several people are fallen. Many won't believe unless we see it in our eyes. In this gospel, God once again showed himself and reminded us that as it is written He will come back as a resurrected Lord. Troubled hearts must not stay in each of us. God assures us that our sins have been forgiven through His crucifixion. Thus, we should be at peace, commit ourselves to trust the Lord and rejoice and be glad of his resurrection.

Lord, you are always working even though we might not see it, in difficult times of suffering and pain, walking next to us. You are the light in the darkest of times; the hope when all is lost and the strength when we fall. Help us to trust in your plan and see your treasures in those around us. Amen.



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





Message for Year 8 and Year 9 | Mrs Reddy

Welcome back Y8 and Y9! As we settle in, let's aim to improve attendance by emphasising its importance in academic success. Students need to be present and engaging in the learning in order to help them reach their full potential.

A huge thank you to parents for supporting our school policies on uniform, attendance and equipment. Together, let's ensure a smooth start to the term and strive for excellence in every aspect of our school community.

Save the date!

The focus is on our Y9s this term who are busy choosing their options. Our parent consultation evening is on 2nd May 2024 from 4pm - 7pm in our main hall. This is an important event in your child's life and we are looking forward to seeing all parents/carers and Y9 students attend.

Celebrations

Congratulations to the tutor group with the most achievement points this week

8JOD 216 points 9SC 278 points

Congratulations to all students with 100% attendance

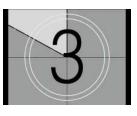
Thank you to the tutors for their ongoing support.

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

Message for Year 10 and Year 11 | Mr Strachan

It's wonderful to welcome back the KS4 students after what I trust was a fantastic half term break. I've noticed the students seem rejuvenated and eager to do well in their studies.

My best wishes go out to all our students, with a special focus on the Year 11s as they gear up for their summer exams, the first of which are a mere three weeks away.



To the rest of KS4, let's embrace the opportunity to uncover new academic horizons this term.

Message for Year 7 | Mr Weedon

Great to see all of our Year 7s back this week, looking revitalised for the new term. I enjoyed listening to the stories of their adventures during the Easter holiday!

Already in the first week I am receiving lots of positive messages from staff about how our Year 7s are starting the term and I hope to hear more throughout the coming weeks.

Well done Year 7 and keep up the good work!

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RAF Benson 'See What You Can Be' Trip | Mr Dunne

On Wednesday 17th April, eleven Year 8 girls went on a "See What You Can Be" Careers trip to RAF Benson where they spent the day talking to a number of different professionals from a variety of backgrounds about the different types of careers they can go into. These included: police (Thames Valley and RAF), pilots (TUI and RAF), firefighters, Thames Valley Air Ambulance, explorers, Paralympians, mountain climbers, tech, PTI's (Personal army, Training Instructors).

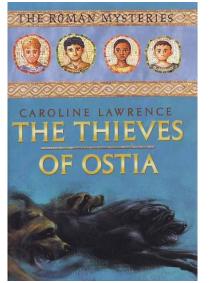
The students were also lucky to be spoken to by guest speaker Lara Vafiadis, who rowed across the Atlantic Ocean from the Canary Islands to the Caribbean in 100 days!

They all had an amazing day and Ana Paula may have been inspired to join the police force!



Library Book of the Week | Miss Hall

'The Thieves of Ostia' is a captivating tale by Caroline Lawrence that effortlessly blends history and engaging storytelling. This first book in the Roman Mysteries series introduces us to four young detectives in the heart of Ancient Rome with a big mystery to solve. The characters are well-rounded and likable, each with unique backgrounds that add depth to the story. Their friendship and teamwork is central to the narrative, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere in a world so different from our own. Lawrence's vivid description of Ostia, Rome's port city, immerses the reader in a time and place full of intrigue and mystery. She masterfully captures the essence of Roman life in her storytelling, making ancient history accessible and enjoyable for all audiences. The story is both a thrilling mystery and a wonderful introduction to historical fiction; it's a delightful start to a series that promises even more adventures in Ancient Rome.







6th Form | Mr Shaw

Congratulations to our excelling Sixth formers - Up learn 100Hrs+ Blake, John, Charley and Matthew have spent in excess of 100 hours each and even up to 180 hours, studying for their A Levels on the online platform Up learn. Up Learn is a smart learning platform for independent study that helps schools get better results; students using the platform achieve A/A^*s at twice the national rate.



It's great to see such enthusiasm, not just

these top students but across the whole sixth form. Their ability to embrace new

tech and aid their studies to give them the

best chance at gaining A grades. Well done

for such a great effort and may long it

Careers News | Miss Manns

Careers Information and Events

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

Year 10 Mock Interviews

To help out Year 10 students prepare for their work experience placements in June, we are offering

continue! them a face to face, skill-based mock interview on the 25th April 2024. The main focus of

these interviews is to give students courage to speak with new people and the confidence to talk about themselves. Students wanting to start their preparation can see the post from Miss Manns on their Y10 Google Classroom for guidance or pop in and see her in HU1.

Can you help?

We are in search of work experience placements for our Year 10 (25-28 June) and Year 12 (15-19 July) students. We would be delighted if you/your employer would be willing to offer a placement for any amount of days during the weeks noted. If you would like more information or could offer a placement, please get in touch by emailing: workexperience@gfcs.uk

Knitting | Mrs Swanton

Well done to Aoife who is still enjoying knitting and made this lovely clown fish at home. Aoife has also started knitting in the group in school.

Also, well done to Sinthia for finishing her first knitted bookmark. We are looking forward to her next knit. Keep up the good work!







Sparx Update | Mr Secker

There was some fantastic work done on Sparx over Easter. A special mention goes to Year 11 students who are working hard in preparation for their exams.

There are more XP points to be earned – let's make it an aim to level up this half term!



Sparx Maths WEEK 27

Sparx Superstar tutor groups this week

Form	XP Week Average	
11MJ	792	
10WK	524	
9SC	675	
8JOD	876	
7AS	654	

Leading Year Group		
Year Group	XP Average	
8	511	
7	496	

Sparx XP Champions this week.						
Name	Year	XP POINTS				
Zartusha A	11	18,435				
Sneha F	11	4,949				
Ahmed M	10	3,240				
Stephanie D	10	2,409				
Mark B	9	4,571				
Sofia B	9	12,188				
Ana Paula C	8	10,818				
Mahbod S	8	7,552				
Sahas U	7	5,229				
Da Vinci T	7	4,860				

Total XP Points Earned 540,809

Sparx XP Champions All Time 19/04/24

Name	Year	Total XP
Mahbod S	8	247,435
Ana Paula C R	8	185,007
Isabelle H	8	153,253
Jack C	8	151,421
Klea L	8	141,377
Mark B	9	121,740
Hajira R	10	119,855
Kryspin B	9	102,228
Peace O	11	100,892
Da Vinci T	7	100,638



Keep up the great work!

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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: <u>s.upellini@gfcs.uk</u> 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.



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

23 April | Y9 TDP/MenACWY Immunisations

25 April | Year 10 Mock Interviews

26 April | Oxford Powerhouse Games Trip

30 April | Girls in STEM Trip

2 May | Year 9 Careers in Focus Trip

2 May | Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening

6 May | BANK HOLIDAY

7 May | Year 9 Healthy Relationships Day



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: <u>s.upellini@gfcs.uk</u> or visit:

https://www.greyfriarsoxford.org.uk/join -us/vacancies to view all our current vacancies.









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Windale Spring Activities				Oxford Hub
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English Class - (Intermediate) Open Access 10.30 -12	Stay and play Coffee Morning 9.30-12.30	Parent Support (Drop in session) 9-11	Puzzles and Games (All welcome) 10-11 Food Bank state	
The BAME Talking Cafe 12.30 - 3.30	Multaka Club, practice English 2-3.30	English Class (Beginner) Open Access 10-11	(Syrcox) 11-1 Community BINGO	
		Mummy Fitness with stay and play (Bee Empowered) 3.30-4.30	(1-3) Infant Feeding Session- Oxfordshire Breastfeeding Support - All welcome 12-2 Family Healthy Lifestyle & children's physical activity Gloji Energy 4-5	

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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: <u>https://clasoutreach.web.ox.ac.uk/oxlat</u>



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