



## **Weekly Newsletter**

Friday 26th April 2024 | Issue 25

#### Dear families

This week's gospel is the comforting and familiar message that the Lord is our shepherd. It is a reminder of the importance of the flock – the group – and the need to act with integrity. God calls us by our name and knows us individually. It is of course pertinent in our mission here for students to flourish individually and collectively. They are part of the flock! This means when they aren't here, we miss them. They have enormous power to shape the world with their purpose and calling.

Y10 have been thinking about how they may shape the world in the future – and this is our whole school theme for the term. Y10 did a brilliant job in their mock interviews – where professionals come in and give our students a real-life interview experience. I am grateful to those volunteers and Miss Manns and Mrs Wittet who organise this event. It was joyful.

I know it may seem trivial, but some glimpses of sunshine have been appreciated this week. I enjoyed watching the community football match with Y11 early in the week – pictured here – despite the clouds. It was such an example of students working together and having fun in some sunshine.



House of St Frideswide also had a good trip out to talk to Emmaus about the work they do there to support homelessness; they also met our MP, Anneliese Dodds. There are so many ways that schools touch the lives of others and work to grow communities in school and those outside. It is a good example of the flock! I have encouraged students to discuss and share what they like about school (it is easy to dismiss it when you are a teenager especially). It is amazing to come to a place where people are genuinely invested in the personal, academic and spiritual growth of young people. Please do foster conversations about what there is to love about school!

With best wishes

Lyndsey Caldwell Headteacher





## WHAT IS GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ME THIS WEEK?

## Gospel: John 10 : 11 - 18



"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one

shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father."

#### Reflection

The week's Gospel offers us the comforting message that Jesus knows us one by one, that we are not unknown to him, that our name is known to him. We are not one of many to him but we are unique individuals, each with our own story. He knows our story. He knows how important we are. He knows what each of us contribute.

Each of us can say: Jesus, knows me! No one knows us the way He knows us. He knows what is in our hearts, our intentions, our most hidden feelings. Jesus knows our strengths and our defect. He knows all of this and loves us deeply. He is always ready to care for us, to heal the wounds of our errors with the abundance of his mercy. Therefore, Jesus the Good Shepherd defends, knows, and above all *loves* his sheep. And this is why he gives his life for them.

Jesus Christ, my Good Shepherd, I humbly implore Your guidance in my daily life. Help me to surrender wholly to Your blessed direction. Keep me on the path of righteousness, grace and love that You've so beautifully set before us. Allow my trust in You to extend through every moment of my existence. Amen.



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





## St Frideswide House Leaders Visit Emmaus Oxford | Mr Dingley

On Friday 19th April, our five St Frideswide house leaders visited Emmaus Oxford to find out more about homelessness in our community. The students spoke with Rebecca from Emmaus and learned about the history of the charity; they also got insight from Anneliese Dodds, our local MP, who joined us to talk about the local and national context.

The students then got to visit a room within Emmaus to see the accommodation the charity provides, looked at some of the communal areas



and then went across to the shop where they met the people that the charity supports. This added fantastic context.

The house leaders will be sharing what they learned in our next house assembly.

## Library Book of the Week | Miss Hall

"Crater Lake" by Jennifer Killick is a thrilling and adventurous read that takes you on unforgettable journey. Killick's ability to create a captivating storv with well-rounded characters is evident in this book. The plot revolves around the mysterious happenings at a school trip to Crater Lake. The suspense keeps you on the edge of your seat, making you eager to find out what happens next.



The characters are relatable and real, and it's a fantastic read to sink into of an evening. Overall, "Crater Lake" is a must-read for those who love adventure and mystery.

## Literacy Hub | Mrs Surtees

The Literacy Hub will be open Monday to Friday for those students who would like to use the space and time to complete homework.



Please pop along and join us!





## 6th Form News | Mr Shaw

#### **Business Bake Off**

For the last couple of days our Sixth Formers have been frantically selling cakes and yummy treats all in aid of a good cause our Breakfast Club, which offers free breakfast to all our pupils. Acting also as a business experiment for their Business Studies course they will be using their best accounting skills

and lots of wheeling, dealing and honing their skills.

## Ashmolean | Mr Larsen

This artefact of the week is something essential to our world: EGYPTIAN PAPYRUS. The first form of paper, papyrus sheets were made from the papyrus plant and used for writing as early as the third millennium BC. Multiple sheets of papyrus were attached together to form scrolls, which became the first books. This particular example is from approximately 1500BC.



Congratulations to KABIRU in Year 12 for winning this week's draw! Check in Mr. Larsen's office in the library every Wednesday for a chance to win!





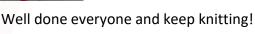
## **Knitting | Mrs Swanton**

Our students have produced some lovely knitted items this week. Aoife and Joseph have knitted a lobster and miffy respectively. Lizzy has also finished knitting her flags and Prasanna her star. Students have worked both in school and at home to produce these amazing pieces.















# Message for Year 10 and Year 11 | Mr Strachan

Congratulations to all the Year 10 students who participated in the Mock Interviews yesterday! This invaluable experience equips them with a crucial life skill essential for their academic and professional iournev ahead. Each student demonstrated exemplary time management and preparedness, taking ownership of their role in the process. The feedback from the local Interviewers. representing overwhelmingly businesses, was positive, with many noting the promising potential of our Year 10 cohort. Let us, as a unified school community, continue to provide guidance and support to ensure their path to success remains clear.

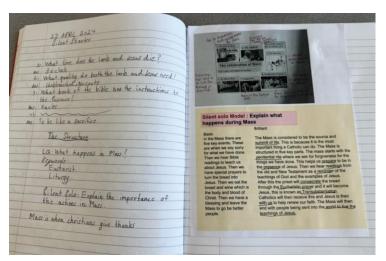
Meanwhile, our Year 11 students are fully immersed in rigorous exam preparation, showcasing dedication and focus that serves as a beacon of inspiration for their peers. Today marked the French GCSE speaking exams, and in 2 weeks, the entire cohort will tackle their RE exams. We extend our heartfelt wishes as they pursue academic success.

Wishing everyone a restful weekend ahead.

## Message for Year 7 | Mr Weedon

Another great week for Year 7; lots of achievement points. 7SW, in particular, have been outstanding!

I have had lots of opportunities to visit lessons throughout the week and I would like to mention the beautiful work being done in RE and history. My Y7s are becoming extremely proud of the work they do and get a great opportunity to showcase this when I pop in.



I would also like to give a shout out to our PE team who are now putting on summer sports at our after school clubs including cricket, rounders and softball. Please see the flier later in the newsletter. These clubs are free and open to all to come to and play. It would be great to see lots of Y7s there!

# I hope you all have a great weekend!





## 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**

On Thursday, 25th April our Year 10 students participated in a face to face, skill-based mock interview and really did themselves proud! All students attended held that themselves to a high standard and did a brilliant job representing themselves and the school. We are so proud of them! A big thank-you going out to the 11 amazing volunteers that gave up their time to make this event a success. We really couldn't have done it without them.

#### 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: mailto:workexperience@gfcs.uk

## Sparx Update | Mr Secker



## Sparx Maths WEEK 28

## Sparx Superstar tutor groups this week

Form	XP Week Average	
11MJ	127	
10WK	304	
9SC	185	
8JOD	311	
7AS	357	

#### **Leading Year Group**

Year group	XP Average	
7	231	
8	221	

#### Sparx XP Champions this week.

		XP POINTS
Zartusha A	11	5,435
Sneha F	11	2,549
Nifemi A-I	10	3,840
Ahmed M	10	1,509
Sofia B	9	4,171
Kryspin B	9	3,988
Ana Paula C	8	5,818
Mahbod S	8	1,952
Yulanda D S	7	2,329
Sahas U	7	1,960

Total XP Points Earned 240,809

## Sparx XP Champions All Time 26/04/24

Name	Year	Total XP
Mahbod S	8	249,435
Ana Paula C R	8	191,007
Isabelle H	8	153,853
Jack C	8	151,421
Klea L	8	141,617
Mark B	9	127,740
Hajira R	10	119,855
Kryspin B	9	106,228
Da Vinci T	7	103,638
Peace O	11	101,892



## Well done everyone!





**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**

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

9 May | Oxford Sport Leaders Programme Session 1

14 May | Year 8 Human Library

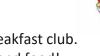
**16 May |** Oxford Sport Leaders Programme Session 2

16 May | Year 8 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: <a href="mailto:s.upellini@gfcs.uk">s.upellini@gfcs.uk</a> or visit:

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













## 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: <a href="mailto:s.upellini@gfcs.uk">s.upellini@gfcs.uk</a> 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.





## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES













## OPPORTUNITIES















## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES













Aged 15-21yrs? Wanna hang out with other young people in a cool space?

2-4pm Growing veg & or woodwork!





4-6pm solidarity sessions & climate chats

The Children's Allotment OX4 3DG

