

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 3rd May 2024 | Issue 26

Dear families

We started the week with our whole school assembly. This was about the central image in Catholicism of God as the true vine. We are the branches – all connected, nourished by God's love. It was also one of my favourite readings this week, also from John. It is '*Children, our love must be not just words or mere talk, but something active and genuine*'. What we do would be more than words and good intentions but something definite and active – it is likely hard work. It is a reminder that we can often have good intentions, but what do we do that is active?

One actively wonderful part of our school is our close collaboration with AT the Bus.

<https://www.atthebus.org.uk/>

This is a charity that has a studio in our school and offers art therapy for lots of our children, as well as others across the county. I was delighted to go and see the work the team had done to raise money for the project in Sotheby's in London. What I was struck by was this painting – *Art does Real and Permanent Good*. It struck me that the people we work with in this charity are actively wonderful in looking for opportunities to support our students. They all do permanent good! It was joyful.



It has also been joyful to see so many *Looking to the Future* opportunities in school. We have had Into University projects for KS3, Y8 have started another Sports' Leaders course with Oxford University, Y9 have been on a careers trip and Y11 and Y13 are of course preparing for their exams. We are so proud of them.

I am hoping the weather improves for the Bank Holiday weekend. Regardless of the sunshine, I hope you are able to have some extra time this weekend to talk to your child/ren about their experiences in school and how they might be actively wonderful in the work that they do here or in the community.

With best wishes
Lyndsey Caldwell
Headteacher

WHAT IS GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ME THIS WEEK?

Gospel: John 15 : 1 – 8



¹ I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. ³ You are clean already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, unless it remains part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a branch -- and withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire and are burnt. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for whatever you please and you will get it. ⁸ It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit and be my disciples.

Reflection

Jesus wants us to know that we are branches who cannot stand alone. Jesus himself is our gardener who continuously nourishes our spirit. If we remain faithful to Him, our life will prosper and bear much fruit. If we remain loyal to our belief, the hard work we did will result into more than we ever expected. However, if we walk away from him, we will wither. May we always hold on to Him who is our vine.

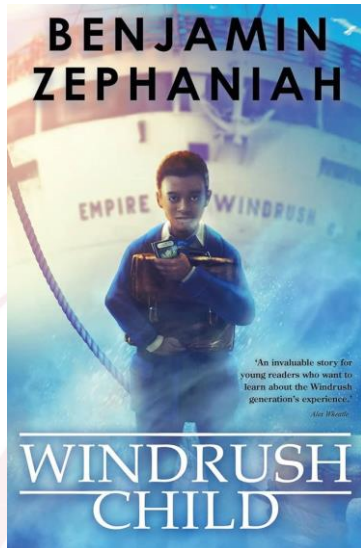
God, our Father,
You love us with endless mercy. You call us to be your sons and daughters. You invite us to take care of the Earth, our common home. Lord, grant us a big heart.
A heart always willing to love, a compassionate heart for those who suffer.
Help us to remain with Jesus and prosper. Amen



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

GENERAL NOTICES

Library Book of the Week | Miss Hall



"Windrush Child" by Benjamin Zephaniah is a poignant, insightful, and captivating novel that provides profound depth and understanding of the Windrush generation's experience. The book explores Leonard's journey from Jamaica to England and the subsequent culture shock, struggle for acceptance, and fight against racial prejudice. Zephaniah paints a vivid picture of 1960s England, deftly portraying the stark contrast between Leonard's expectations and the reality he encounters. What stands out the most in this novel is Zephaniah's ability to blend historical facts with a compelling and emotional narrative. "Windrush Child" is an essential read for those who seek to understand the experiences of immigrants and the impact of British colonialism. In its essence, it is a heartfelt tribute to the Windrush generation and a reminder of the importance of acceptance and understanding in our diverse society.

Tennis Club | Mr McCutcheon

Tennis club started this week. Lots of fun was had with games of serve and volley. Come and join in the fun – the next session is on Monday 13th May.



Congratulations!

To our very own Mr McCutcheon who, last weekend, completed the Boston (Lincolnshire) Marathon.



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!

GENERAL NOTICES

Ashmolean | Mr Larsen

The artefact of this week is a reminder that we can take our historical thinking skills out into the world! These GERMAN REICHSMARKS from the economic collapse of the 1920s are not from the Ashmolean's collections, but this week we tested the skills our students have developed all year to think critically about artefacts. Congratulations to FINLAY in year 8 for successfully guessing their significance (rapid hyperinflation causing 10 Marks to be worth the same as 100,000 Marks just a few years later) and winning the prize!

Message for Year 10 and Year 11 | Mr Strachan

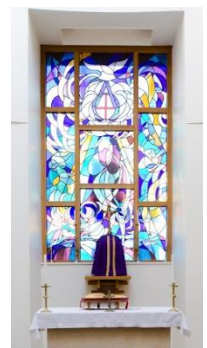
We've officially kicked off exam season! Yesterday marked the beginning for several of our Year 11 students, diving into specialised subjects like Greek, Mandarin, Cantonese, and practical assessments for GCSE Sport. Next week, the remainder of the cohort will begin, starting with the first of two Religious Education exams, where Miss Jelfs, our dedicated Curriculum Leader for R.E., has meticulously prepared them. As always, we extend our heartfelt wishes to all students embarking on this exam journey.



Chaplaincy | Br Martin

On Thursday we had a beautiful celebration of Mass with the largest attendance during lunch ever. It is great to see the students taking an active part in the liturgy and praying for their own particular intentions and all the families.

We look forward to the special day celebrating the Ascension of our Lord into heaven next Thursday, which is a holy day of obligation for Catholics. We will have two Masses that day in school to ensure everyone is given a chance of being there and praying together.



GENERAL NOTICES

Sixth Form News | Mr Shaw

Sixth Formers to Mentor Young EAL learners

Some of our sixth form are just about to start a programme with a local charity, Jacari. whereby they support young and maybe disadvantaged learners of English, helping them improve their English language skills and increasing their confidence.



The Jacari charity helps children and young people from refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant communities in deprived areas of Bristol and Oxford. The children and young people they support are a wonderfully diverse group, representing many different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. The thing they have in common is that they speak English as an additional language and their school teachers know that they would benefit from the extra support they offer - perhaps because they lack confidence, are struggling at school, or have just arrived in the UK and are new to English.

So we hope our sixth form can leave a lasting impression and we can create a long lasting relationship, which is mutually beneficial to all the children involved.

Message for Years 8 and 9 | Mrs Reddy

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the students, parents, and carers who attended our Year 9 Parents' Evening. The energy in the room was truly amazing, and we were bursting with pride to see how keen the students were about their future. Your active participation and support make a significant difference in our school community.

For those who couldn't make it, we missed you! Please ensure you email teachers to get feedback. By now, all Y9 students should have completed the process of choosing their options. Thank you for your continued cooperation and involvement in your child's education. We look forward to seeing you at our future events.

Save the date!

Year 8 parent consultation evening is on
Thursday 16 May 2024 between 4pm and 7pm.

Your child will be asking you for times for appointments to secure bookings with their subject teachers. This is an important event in your child's life and we are looking forward to seeing all parents/carers and Y8 students attend.

Celebrations

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!

GENERAL NOTICES

Careers News | Miss Manns

Careers Information and Events

For lots of useful information regarding careers, please click:

[OxLep Picks of the Week](#)

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>

Knitting | Mrs Swanton

Well done to Finley and Mason (respectively) for finishing off their bookmarks!



Sparx Update | Mr Secker



Sparx Maths WEEK 29

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.

Name	Year	XP POINTS
Zartusha A	11	3,535
Sneha F	11	2,149
Hajira R	10	5,840
Ayden K	10	5,509
Sofia B	9	4,171
Tyrone G	9	2,288
Ana Paula C	8	6,118
Oscar S	8	1,452
Sahas U	7	8,329
Da Vinci T	7	2,560

Total XP Points Earned

240,809

Sparx XP Champions All Time 03/05/24

Name	Year	Total XP
Ana Paula C R	8	196,007
Isabelle H	8	155,853
Jack C	8	152,421
Klea L	8	142,617
Mark B	9	129,740
Hajira R	10	125,855
Sofia B	9	108,652
Kryspin B	9	107,228
Da Vinci T	7	103,638
Peace O	11	101,892



Well done everyone!

GENERAL NOTICES

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.

BASKETBALL CLUB

GREYFRIARS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Tuesday
GIRLS 3:30 PM

Thursday
BOYS 3:30 PM

@Greyfriars Catholic School
SPORT HALL

Registration: Mr. Florin Roman, Email: f.roman@gfcs.uk

Logos: NBA Jr, Basketball England, and a photo of students in orange uniforms.

GREYFRIARS EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

MONDAY 3:15-4:15 PM	YEAR 7&8 CRICKET (TW) ALL YEARS TENNIS (MM) ALL YEARS SOFTBALL (JOD)
TUESDAY 3:15-4:15 PM	ALL YEARS ROUNDERS (KI) ALL YEARS GYM (BME) GIRLS BASKETBALL (FR)
WEDNESDAY 8:10-8:35 AM	ALL YEARS GYM (KI)
THURSDAY 8:10-8:35 AM	ALL YEARS GYM (KI)
THURSDAY 3:15-4:15	BOYS BASKETBALL (FR) ALL YEARS GYM (BME, KI, JOD)
FRIDAY 3:15-4:15	SIXTH FORM FOOTBALL (BME)

GENERAL NOTICES

Dates for your Diary

6 May | BANK HOLIDAY

7 May | Year 9 Healthy Relationships Day

9 May | Oxford Sport Leaders Programme Session 1

9 May | Feast of the Ascension Mass

14 May | Year 8 Human Library

16 May | Oxford Sport Leaders Programme Session 2

16 May | Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening

25 May | Oxford Sport Leaders Programme Session 3



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:

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



GENERAL NOTICES

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.

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Parent Support Group New!

A peer support group for parents of teens that have additional needs and/or mental health concerns.

This is a parent-focussed group, facilitated by a professionally accredited therapist (UKCP/MBACP), providing a safe and supportive space to share and talk through the challenges you may be facing with your teen.



When? Tuesdays 6-7.30pm
Starting Spring 2024

Where? St Mary's Church Hall,
Church Street,
Kidlington OX5 2AZ

Cost? Free!

Empowering parents through shared experience and professional support

If this sounds like the group for you, please get in touch with Felicity on 07821 542182
Alternatively email felicityscroggie@gmail.com and leave your name and number for a call back



SEN COFFEE MORNINGS!

Oxford Hub



PAP (Parents and Professionals)
Fortnightly Coffee Mornings, mainly aimed at PARENTS of children with SEN (diagnosed/undiagnosed) to get together for a FREE talk presented by a guest speaker. Its a time to relax, refresh, chat, spill the beans, share opinions & experiences, support each other, have a laugh or shed a tear, all over a cup of coffee.

Coffee Mornings are every other Thursday, 9.30-11am

Next session are: 21st March 18th April and 2nd May

Location: The Jungle, Templars Square Shopping Centre

JUNGLE

PARENT AND PROFESSIONALS COFFEE MORNING
CONTACT KYLIE FOR MORE INFORMATION:
KYLIE@OXFORDHUB.ORG

PARENT POWER

Need help or support?



EVERY THURSDAY



09:00 AM - 11:00 AM



Greyfriars Secondary School,
Cricket Road, Oxford, OX4 3DR



Learn English Skills



Meet other families to build parent power

Please come to main reception or contact

Kylie@oxfordhub.org
07707918532

Oxford Hub

Windale Spring Activities

Oxford Hub

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

All Activities are FREE and drop in: Call 01865745260 for more info.

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Next steps to work or training

We can support with

- Providing you with a laptop and data
- Paying for travel to work or training
- Looking for work or training
- Applications and interviews

Get trained on how to use a laptop or mobile phone to help you

- Find and apply for courses
- Write your CV
- Apply for jobs

Ria 07498 351055
ria@sofea.uk.com
or
Taraji 07507 121281
taraji@sofea.uk.com

PARENT WEBINAR

Parents are the most important part of young peoples lives and hold the key to helping them. Let us, help you, to help them.

CAMHS
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SESSIONS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

SUBJECTS INCLUDE

- TEEN ANXIETY
- SELF HARM
- LOW MOOD
- HOW TO TALK TO YOUR DISTRESSED CHILD

WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/OXON/SIR/WEBINARS

LIVING WELL with NEURODIVERSITY

A new support service from Oxfordshire CAMHS in collaboration with Autism Oxford UK Limited

Is your family open to / involved with CAMHS services?
Is your young person either suspected or diagnosed as neurodiverse (autism/ADHD)?

FREE COURSES AND SUPPORT FOR YOU!

A range of sessions available covering different topics.
Informal spaces for Parents / Carers to safely share experiences / tips.
Facilitated by professionals and lived experience practitioners.

Scan the QR code to access the events and resources!
<https://onhs.autismoxford.com/>
If you have any questions, please email us on youngpeoplesupport@autismoxford.org.uk

Working together to deliver the best for our communities, our people & the environment
| Caring | Safe | Excellent |

COMMUNITY SPORT PROJECT

BASKETBALL FOR ALL

BASKETBALL

FREE SESSIONS

BOYS OXFORD GIRLS

AGED 14-17

13TH JANUARY 2024
12:00 - 14:00

REGISTRATION

WE BELONG TO OUR COMMUNITY

VENUE:
GREYFRIARS CATHOLIC SCHOOL
OX4 3DR

WHATSAPP 07538173030
oxfordeliteacademy@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY SPORT PROJECT

COMMUNITY FUND

BASKETBALL

GIRLS OXFORD & CARTERTON BOYS

AGED 9-11 / 12-14

13TH JANUARY 2024

WE BELONG TO OUR COMMUNITY

Domino's Access Sport

Active Oxfordshire YOU MOVE

REGISTRATION

WHATSAPP +447538173030
oxfordeliteacademy@yahoo.com

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Low cost and free activities for families to enjoy together!

You Move is brand new for Oxfordshire, providing low cost and free fun activities for families including weekends and school holidays



It's quick and easy to sign up for You Move:

- 1) visit www.getoxfordshireactive.org/you-move to register or call your local activator for more information (info below)
- 2) we'll send you a You Move welcome pack and membership cards
- 3) your local Activators will be on hand to provide lots of support and advice

Enjoy a fantastic range of activities including swimming, badminton, activity packs, children's holiday activities and so much more!

Oxford City Activators
Ben - 07483 010720
Gerti - 07485 311346



RECRUITING FOR 2024

ADULTS | YOUTH | ALL ABILITIES
WOLVERCOTE CC
FREE GIRLS WINTER AND SUMMER CRICKET

FREE GIRLS CRICKET

WINTER SESSIONS AT GREYFRIARS SCHOOL | SUMMER AT CUTTESLOWE

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT
NICK PINHOL
WOLVERCOTECRICKETCLUB@GMAIL.COM

JOIN OUR TEAM

WWW.WOLVERCOTECRICKETCLUB.CO.UK
f t i /WOLVERCOTEC

JOIN US...

RAF Air Cadets recruiting now!

If you love aircraft, action and adventure, then the Air Cadets is for you. The Air Cadets is a UK-wide cadet force sponsored by the Royal Air Force. As a cadet, you'll get the chance to do things that others only dream about such as adventurous training, camps, drill and real flight experience.

So if you're aged 12* - 17 and you're looking for a challenge call 0345 600 6601 or log on to www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets

*You must be in Year 8 (England & Wales), S2 (Scotland) or Year 9 (Northern Ireland).

2210 (Cowley) Sqn
Sandy Lane West, OX4 6LD
www.aircadets.tv/2210 Come join us on 25th of April at 8 pm! RSVP: <https://forms.office.com/e/4GWkdbHAG1>

ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS
the next generation

youth ambition

Youth Clubs

FREE EXCITING AND EMPOWERING SESSIONS to connect and meet others aged 11 to 19 years. Come chill, have fun and enjoy activities, trips, games, cooking, gaming, arts & craft, music and so much more during school term times!

KEEN Teens Session
Inclusive social activities for those with disabilities and special needs, run in partnership with KEEN.
Monday 5pm - 7.30pm (11-18yrs)
St Clements Family Centre

Girls Youth Club
Run in partnership with EMBS Community College
Monday 5pm - 7pm
EMBS Community College, Templars Square

Northway Youth Club
Tuesday 5pm - 7pm
Northway Tower Playbase

Littlemore Youth Club
Thursday 4pm - 6pm
Littlemore Community Centre

Rose Hill Boys Youth Club
Run by Rose Hill JFC
Wednesday 5.30pm - 7pm
Rose Hill Community Centre

Rose Hill Girls Youth Club
Run by Rose Hill JFC
Thursday 5.30pm - 7pm
Rose Hill Community Centre

Wood Farm Youth Club
Wednesday 5.30pm - 7.30pm
Wood Farm Youth Centre

Barton Youth Club
Run by Barton Community Association
Thursday 5pm - 8pm (12-16yrs)
Barton Neighbourhood Centre

www.oxford.gov.uk/youthambition
youthambition@oxford.gov.uk 01865 352229

youth ambition

MultiSports

FREE Join our FUN PACKED multi-sport sessions for 11 to 19 year olds. Enjoy games, develop skills and gain confidence while making great friends!

Football Session
Tuesday 4pm - 5pm
Oxford City Community Arena
Marston

Boxing Session
Friday 4pm - 5pm
OMAA, Templars Square

BBL Friday Multi-Sport Session
Friday 6pm - 7.30pm (11-14yrs)
7.30pm - 9pm (15-19yrs)
Leys Pools and Leisure Centre

Aspiration
CAREER & EMPLOYMENT advice and support for 16 to 24 year olds at Rose Hill Community Centre

CV Skills & Support
Tuesday 10am - 12pm

Job Club
Tuesday 1pm - 3pm

Employment Drop-in
Wednesday 10am - 4pm

Post Employability Training (PEP 1/PEP 2)
Thursday 10am - 12.30pm

Well Being Courses (Healthy Body, Healthy Mind)
Thursday 1pm - 3pm

www.oxford.gov.uk/youthambition
youthambition@oxford.gov.uk @oxfordyouthambition 01865 252728

@Cowley_youth_space
Starting Sat 27th April!

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**

