

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 6th March 2026 | Issue 21

Dear Families

This week our Gospel reflection focused on the Transfiguration, that extraordinary moment when Jesus is revealed in glory before Peter, James and John. In our assemblies we reflected on what it means to bear witness; to notice what is good, to listen carefully to the truth, and to have the courage to respond when we are called to act. The disciples were invited not simply to see what was happening, but to listen and learn. As we continue through Lent, we are reminded that faith asks us to be attentive to others and brave enough to live out what we believe in life's great journey.

It has been a week filled with remarkable journeys. We were delighted to welcome home our Year 10 students from Kenya, where they have spent their time working in medical centres, helping to build homes, and immersing themselves in the life of the community. They returned to school to a very warm welcome and are now charged with the important task of sharing their experiences with the rest of the school. Their stories are inspiring and a powerful reminder that service, solidarity and compassion can truly open our eyes to the wider world.

Within hours of their return, another adventure continued: our pilgrimage to Rome is currently underway. Our students have already achieved so much in a short time, and we were delighted to receive a contribution from them for the newsletter while they are away. When they return safely, we will have completed an extraordinary four weeks of international trips. What wonderful opportunities our staff create, and what remarkable young people we have who embrace them with such enthusiasm.

Back in school, life has been equally busy. It is Careers Week, and students have been looking closely at life beyond Greyfriars. Our Year 10 students took part in mock interviews with external employers, preparing CVs and demonstrating impressive professionalism. The feedback from employers was exceptional; they were delighted by how prepared, thoughtful and confident our students were. Our Year 12 students have also been gaining valuable experience this week through work placements across a range of sectors, while others have been completing project work in school. These experiences help students to begin imagining their future pathways and the contribution they might make to the world.

And as if that were not enough, our **Greyfriars Literary Festival** is now in full swing. At Greyfriars, the staff, not the students, take on the costumes! It has been a joy to speak to students about the importance of reading and storytelling. I very much enjoyed introducing them to my character this year, Miss Havisham from *Great Expectations*. I must say, conducting Year parents' evening while wearing a wedding dress was certainly a first for me, and a reminder that schools are not only places of hard work and learning, but also places of fun, imagination and joy.



Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the Greyfriars community. I wish you all a peaceful and restful weekend.

With very best wishes
Lyndsey Caldwell
Headteacher

WHAT IS GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ME THIS WEEK?

Gospel - Matthew 17 : 1 - 9



Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Reflection

Transfigured on Mount Tabor, Jesus wanted to show his disciples his glory, not for them to circumvent the Cross, but to show where the Cross leads. Those who die with Jesus, shall rise again with Jesus. The Cross is the door to Resurrection. Whoever struggles alongside him will triumph with him. This is the message of hope contained in Jesus' Cross, urging us to be strong in our existence. The Christian Cross is not the furnishings of a house or adornments to wear but rather, the Christian Cross is a call to the love with which Jesus sacrificed himself to save humanity from evil and sin. In this Lenten season, we contemplate with devotion the image of the Crucifix, Jesus on the Cross: this is the symbol of Christian Faith, the emblem of Jesus, who died and rose for us. Let us ensure that the Cross marks the stages of our Lenten journey in order to understand ever better the seriousness of sin and the value of the sacrifice by which the Saviour has saved us all

*Lord, I am Your pilgrim, on my way to You.
Open my eyes to see You, my ears to hear You, and my
heart to love You.
Give me the strength to overcome my tiredness and the grace
to be a witness of Your love to everyone I meet. Amen*



To view the St Edmund and St Frideswide (Greyfriars) parish website please click on the following link:

<https://www.greyfriarsoxford.uk/>

GENERAL NOTICES

Catholic Life | Mr Greer

We are in Rome!

It's been such a delight. I'll type up a full update next week, but just rejoice with us in how powerful of an experience this has been. We had an audience with Pope Leo. We have visited numerous churches. We have toured the Colosseum and other ancient sites. And there's been plenty of gelato and pasta along the way. We are thankful to be here, inspired by what God is showing us!



Year 12 Work Experience Week | Ms McCabe

This week our Y12 students have been on work experience placements both in and out of school. Some of our students have been based in schools, pharmacies, law firms and estate agents.

In school, our students have followed a comprehensive programme of careers focused activities. They have been working on a team challenge to create an original product which they will present to the 'board' today. They have also had a series of sessions on their vision for the future, suitable pathways, presentation skills and team building.

In addition, we have been delighted to offer a variety of speaker talks, both in person and online. Dr Stephen Law, Philosopher and Author, spoke to students about the most effective methods to manipulate and persuade other people. Oxford Brookes spoke to students about skills needed for interviews and employment and Tokamek Energy delivered a workshop on structuring presentations.

Finally, all students in school have been completing their own choice of virtual work experience through Springpod and Forage.

It has been a wonderful week. The Sixth Form team have been so impressed with the students' enthusiasm and engagement across the week and know it has been a really valuable experience for all.



GENERAL NOTICES

Our Kenya Visit: A Journey of Unity, Integrity and Legacy

In February, a group of our students and staff travelled to western Kenya to work alongside the charity Nasio in the rural community of Musanda. Over the course of two weeks, the visit became far more than a trip. It was a powerful lesson in leadership, service and community, testing resilience, deepening understanding and reminding us what it truly means to thrive together.

The journey itself began with a lesson in perseverance. After leaving school full of excitement, our travel plans were quickly disrupted when strikes in Nairobi caused our flight to be cancelled late at night at Heathrow. What followed was a long and complicated 28-hour delay involving queues, rebookings, hotel transfers and uncertainty. Despite tiredness and frustration, our students showed remarkable patience and maturity. For some, it was their first time flying or even travelling abroad, yet they handled the unexpected challenges with resilience and good humour.

Eventually we reached Kenya, flying first into Nairobi and then onward to Kisumu before travelling by road to Musanda. The warm welcome from the Nasio team reminded us immediately why we had come.

From the moment we arrived, one of the most striking features of the community was the warmth of the people we met. Greetings are an important part of daily life. When you say “good morning”, you pause and wait as each person responds in turn. It is a simple act, but one that reflects a culture where people take time for one another. That warmth and generosity of spirit was something our students experienced everywhere they went.

Learning from Leadership

On our first full day, we met Nancy Hunt, the founder of Nasio. Hearing her speak about how the charity began – and how it has grown into a network of schools, medical facilities and community programmes – was deeply inspiring. Her story was a powerful example of what determined leadership and a clear moral purpose can achieve.



During a tour of the community we saw the farms, the spirulina project, the developing library and the medical centre. These initiatives are all part of Nasio’s mission to support children and families living in poverty so they can flourish independently and collectively.

For our students, it was an opportunity to see leadership not as a title, but as service to others.

GENERAL NOTICES

Building Unity Across Cultures

Much of our time was spent with local children. We visited nursery schools, served breakfast to young pupils, and spent time playing football, singing songs and sharing stories. Language and culture were sometimes different, but laughter and kindness proved universal.

One of the most memorable experiences was visiting local schools. At Booker Academy, a high-performing private school, our students attended lessons alongside Kenyan pupils. Despite limited resources – chalkboards, textbooks and exercise books – the commitment to learning and strong work ethic of the students was striking.



In a moment that captured the spirit of the trip, Mr McCutcheon and Mr Dingley were asked to lead an unexpected lesson when teachers were absent. Moments like this reminded us that education is not defined by buildings or technology, but by curiosity, discipline and a shared commitment to learning.

Spending time in the community also gave our students a powerful sense of perspective. Many families live without things that we might consider essential, such as running water or electricity. Yet what stood out was not hardship alone, but the joy, resilience and love that exist within families and communities. People support one another, share what they have and greet each day with remarkable optimism. It was a powerful reminder that happiness is not always defined by what we possess, but by the relationships and values we hold.

Serving with Integrity

Some of the most powerful experiences came when students worked directly alongside local families.

They helped treat jigger infestations, a painful condition affecting feet, by assisting with cleaning and care. They carried water from the river and worked to seal house walls with mud and cow dung to prevent reinfestation. These tasks were physically demanding and emotionally challenging, but our students approached them with compassion and dignity.

GENERAL NOTICES

Later in the week, they helped build houses for families whose existing homes were unsafe. Using simple tools, they dug foundations, erected frames and filled walls with mud. The work was hard under the Kenyan sun, but what stood out was the spirit of collaboration. Our students worked alongside local builders, Nasio staff and community members, all united by a shared purpose.



For one family, Abigael and her grandmother, their existing home had no proper roof and was partially flooded. By the end of the week, our students had helped complete a new house. When the keys were presented, there were tears from both our hosts and our students. It was a moment that captured the power of integrity in action – doing the right thing because it matters, even when it is difficult.



Community Through Sport

Another highlight of the visit was an afternoon of football with students from Mumias Muslim School. After spending time in lessons and meeting pupils earlier in the day, the matches brought everyone together in a spirit of friendly competition. The games were closely contested. The girls drew 2–2 in an exciting match before narrowly losing on penalties, while the boys played with determination in challenging conditions. Although the results could have gone either way, what mattered most was the atmosphere surrounding the games. Students, staff and members of the community gathered to watch, cheer and celebrate together.

Sport proved to be a powerful way of building connection. Despite differences in language, culture and schooling, the matches created a shared moment of joy and unity that everyone involved will remember.

GENERAL NOTICES

Leaving a Legacy

Each evening we gathered together to reflect on the day. These debriefs became an important part of the experience, giving students the chance to share their thoughts and process what they had seen and learned. Every evening ended in the same way: with everyone singing the Happy Song. It quickly became a tradition of the trip and a joyful reminder of the spirit of togetherness that had developed among the group.

On our final working day, we returned to the completed homes to celebrate with the families. Students presented gifts, shared speeches and reflected on the experience together.

On the walk back, each student planted a tree – a symbolic act representing the legacy of the visit. Long after we have returned home, those trees will continue to grow, just as the relationships formed during the trip will continue to shape those who were involved.



Thriving Together

This trip reminded us that leadership is not about status, but about responsibility. It is about unity – recognising that we are stronger when we support one another. It is about integrity – choosing compassion and service when faced with challenge. And it is about legacy – leaving something better behind for others.

Our students returned to school not only with memories of Kenya's red earth, vibrant communities and extraordinary hospitality, but also with a deeper understanding of their own capacity to lead and serve.

They saw first-hand the power of communities working together. They learned that happiness does not depend on material comforts alone, but on relationships, generosity and shared purpose. We are immensely proud of how they represented our school.

Their actions showed that when individuals come together with purpose, we truly can thrive – both individually and collectively.

GENERAL NOTICES

Oxford Young Sport Leaders Programme – Day 1 | Mr Roman

Some of our Year 8 students enjoyed an inspiring and action-packed day as part of the Oxford Young Sport Leaders Programme, combining sport, education, and the opportunity to experience some of Oxford's unique academic environments.

On arrival at Linacre College, students took part in an engaging introduction to the programme delivered by Prof. Alexander Betts, Ollie Cook and Jenny Shilton Osborne. During this session, students explored the purpose and structure of the programme and learned more about leadership within sport. A highlight was the interactive session led by Phoebe Cheung, who spoke about rehabilitation after injury. Through practical examples and discussion, students gained valuable insight into how athletes recover from injuries, the importance of patience and discipline during rehabilitation, and how proper physical and mental preparation helps athletes return safely to competition.



After the morning session, we had lunch at Linacre College allowing students to experience a small part of life within the University of Oxford. Founded in 1962, Linacre College is one of Oxford's graduate colleges, known for its international community, strong academic focus, and commitment to sustainability and interdisciplinary research.

In the afternoon, students participated in a fantastic Flag Football session delivered by the University of Oxford "Lancers" American Football Team. The session introduced students to the fundamentals of the sport through a series of interactive drills and activities designed to develop



passing, catching, communication, and teamwork. Working alongside members of the Lancers team, students had the chance to learn new skills while also experiencing the excitement and fast pace of Flag Football. The session encouraged collaboration, confidence, and leadership, all key qualities for young sports leaders.

The Oxford Young Sport Leaders Programme continues to provide our students with outstanding opportunities to explore sport from different perspectives, develop leadership skills, and connect with the wider sporting and academic community of Oxford.

Oscar Year 8 said: 'I think the way the day was planned was great and it was great to have professionals help teach us how to play their sports, they were very helpful and passionate to teach and they also mixed us and got us out of our comfort zone, it was also great to have a special lecture on a very interesting topic and the food and helpers were great!'

GENERAL NOTICES

Year 10 Mock Interviews | Mr Dunne

On Tuesday morning, our Year 10 students took an important step toward their future careers when they took part in our annual Mock Interview Event. The event brought 21 volunteers into school from a wide range of organisations and professional backgrounds, giving students the chance to experience what a real job interview feels like in a supportive but authentic setting.

Throughout the morning, students were interviewed one-to-one and asked a variety of questions similar to those used in genuine recruitment processes. They were scored on a scale of 1–5 and received personalised feedback to help them understand their strengths and identify areas for improvement. Many students commented on how valuable it was to speak with someone from outside school and how much more confident they now feel about future interviews, college applications, and work experience opportunities.

The experience helped students develop key employability skills, including communicating clearly, thinking on their feet, and presenting themselves professionally. It also gave them a clearer understanding of what employers look for and how they can continue to build these skills as they move through school.

We are extremely grateful to all 21 volunteers who generously gave their time on Tuesday morning to support our students. Their insight, encouragement, and constructive feedback made the day both meaningful and memorable, and their contribution will have a lasting impact on our students' preparation for life beyond Year 10.

As a reminder, Year 10 Work Experience Week will take place from Monday 22nd to Friday 26th June 2026, and participation is compulsory for all students. If any student would like advice or guidance in preparing for this, they are welcome to come and see me.



GENERAL NOTICES

U13 Basketball | Mr Roman

A great achievement for our U13 Girls Team

We are really proud of our U13 Girls team and the progress they are showing. Back in January, we travelled to Cheney School for our County League opener and narrowly lost a very close game, 24-20. It was one of those matches that could have gone either way. While the result didn't fall in our favour, it gave the girls something much more important — belief that they can compete.

On Monday, this week, the team travelled to Swan School with a very young squad: just two Year 8 students and nine Year 7 students. Facing an opposition made up entirely of Year 8 players, we knew it would be a tough test.

But from the first whistle, the girls showed how much they have grown. They played with confidence, real determination and, most importantly, with heart. They encouraged each other after every play, stayed positive, and worked together as a team. It wasn't just about scoring — it was about effort, communication, and trust. Defensively they stayed disciplined, offensively they moved the ball well, and they never stopped competing. That team spirit led to a well-deserved 26-16 win for Greyfriars Catholic School.

What makes this achievement special is not just the result, but the development behind it. This group is learning how to handle challenges, how to support one another, and how to grow through experience. That is what school sport is truly about.

Now we look ahead to a focused period of preparation before our home game against Cherwell School. The aim remains the same — keep improving, keep learning, and enjoy the journey together.



Well done girls. We are very proud of you.

GENERAL NOTICES

Sixth Form News | Ms McCabe

Y13 PPEs

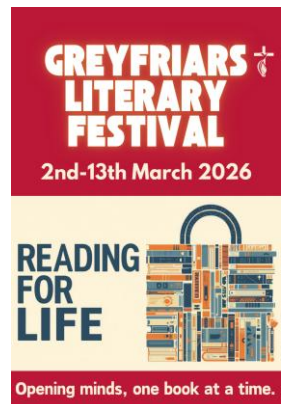
The Y13 have been completing their remaining mock exams this week. We know they have been working incredibly hard throughout this time and in the lead up to it. We are really looking forward to their return on Monday morning at 8:45am. The next few weeks are key. Students will be getting feedback from these exams and addressing misconceptions or knowledge gaps. Attendance is crucial in the last few months of the course. Every lesson counts and each one could be the chance for students to revisit information that makes all the difference to their final grades.

St Clare's Conference

Last Friday, Mr Shaw took a group of seven Sixth Form sociologists and philosophers to a one-day conference at St Clare's College, Oxford. He said 'the conference explored the theme of Influences. Students took part in four workshops, including religion & culture, media influencers, environment, and politics. We also heard a talk from Dr Damian Tambini from the London School of Economics. The students really engaged with the sessions and shared their opinions and ideas in a challenging environment, showing their tenacity and providing a great example of what it means to be a Sixth Former' Mr Shaw.

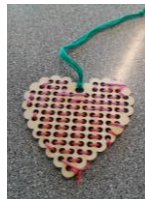
Greyfriars Literary Festival & Reading Buddies

It has been wonderful to see so many of our Sixth Formers involved in and supporting the Greyfriars Literary Festival. The Sixth Form Festival team have been organising and promoting events with younger students and making sure everything runs smoothly. They have been excellent thanks to the guidance and support of Mrs Brett. This week, we also started our Reading Buddy programme. This programme is additional to the work Sixth Formers are already doing with the Jacari Reading and our EAL students. Our Library Reading Buddies were amazing and both our Y12 and our Y7 loved it. They were buzzing! This programme will continue throughout the year and, as we recruit more Y12 buddies, we will roll the programme out to Y8 students.



Well done! | Mrs Swanton & Mrs Bowler

There has been some great work done by Titonia (bag) Lexi and Tommy (sewing) and Ludozio (chalk drawing). Keep up the beautiful work!



GENERAL NOTICES

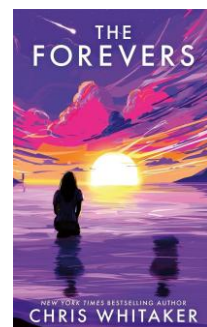
Year 8 Art | Mrs Byrne



Year 8 have been very busy creating their clay pots, inspired by natural forms and the ceramic work of Kate Malone and Andy Rogers. Their designs explore texture, organic shapes, and surface detail, reflecting Kate Malone's distinctive, nature-inspired style.

Weekly Book Review by Erin

Set in a small coastal town, *The Forevers* follows 17-year-old Mae in the final 30 days before a devastating asteroid named Selena is set to collide with Earth. While the world has known about the imminent disaster for 10 years, the final month descends into chaos as societal norms crumble and people are pushed to their breaking points. The narrative centres on the main mystery of Abi, Mae's former best friend, who is found dead at the base of a cliff. While authorities dismiss it as suicide, Mae suspects foul play and begins an investigation into the secrets of her community while the clock ticks down.



Equally thought provoking and heart breaking, this story forces us as readers to confront the nihilistic nature of reality, balanced with a poignant tribute to human connection. *Will experts be successful in saving the earth from impending doom? Will Mae solve the mystery of her former best friends' death? Will humanity band together in their last days, or completely shatter?*

GENERAL NOTICES

Library News | Miss Brett

Hello, everybody! Today is a special edition of Library News – brought to you by our Sixth Formers on work experience in the library.



Introduction | Safa

This week was the first week of the Literary Festival where us sixth formers (Safa, Erin, Goodness, Kanchan, Hajira, Mohib and Hajera) on work experience helped Ms Brett in the library organising books, labelling and making the library a space of comfort where everyone is welcome to join and dive into the world of books especially as world book day is approaching - an exciting event full with joy and pleasant surprises.

Speakers | Mohib

This year's Literacy Festival empowers students through expert led communication workshops. We had professional journalists share tips and tricks for crafting news reports and persuasive arguments and challenge attendees to look behind the headlines, while another speaker came and gave a thought provoking session on brainwashing and on questioning modern propaganda.



Quizzes | Erin

For the festival, a few teachers and I have written literacy quizzes. This week, I have written two relating to fiction stories, with multiple rounds each. Students throughout years 7 to 11 have been completing these quizzes in their tutor groups, competing for not only pride of success, but also the ability to gain more knowledge of books!

Art | Goodness

I was based on the decoration and craft-work. We had guest speakers and I had to prepare a dozen of "thank you" cards for each speaker for the whole two weeks of the literary festival. It was a moment of focus and creative art-work, so I went into helpful tutorials which helped me to create suitable cards for each speaker. This gave me a sense of joy and understanding that things can be done better with a calm mind, I also created a hand made poster to motivate younger children to read books in the library.

Organisation | Hajira

One of the most engaging aspects of my placement was the meticulous organisation of the library. Transforming the stacks into a streamlined, accessible collection was highly rewarding. The best part? Definitely the books! Organising the shelves was a total win satisfying and a great way to get hands-on with the collection. This work experience turned a crowded space into an orderly, functional resource, ensuring every book is exactly where it needs to be.

GENERAL NOTICES

Library News Continued...

Cupboard clearing | Hajera

I worked in the library and helped to tidy the back room. First of all, I checked all the books that were kept in the room. I researched each book in the school library system to see whether it was already available in the main library or not. Once we had sorted the books, we arranged them in alphabetical order. I also made sure that the back room was neat, clean, and organized. I completed all the assigned tasks by the teacher, especially in organizing and checking the books mentioned by the teacher. I learned the significance of being responsible, organized, and patient while working in a library. The whole process involved attention to detail and teamwork. The result was that the library's back room became much neater and organized than before. I felt proud of myself for completing all the assigned duties successfully and contributing to the environment in the library.

Conclusion | Kanchan

In conclusion, our time working in the library provided valuable work experience. We engaged in various tasks such as organising books, applying stickers, crafting thank you cards, and distributing free books to younger students. Working as a team was a significant part of the experience, guided by Miss, with occasional check-ins from Mr. Shaw to ensure we were on track. Our final task each day involved arranging all the materials, leaving us with a sense of accomplishment and a wealth of practical skills.

THANK YOU ALL FOR THE VERY HARD WORK! IT WAS A PLEASURE HAVING YOU IN THE LIBRARY THIS WEEK. DO COME BACK ANY TIME (when you're not in lessons:)).

Finally, are there any changes on our READING leader board?

TERM 4 WEEK 2				
	Reading Champ		Tutor Group Reading Championship	
1	Sahas	55	8BMO	90.9%
2	Phoebe	41	8TTO	89.3%
3	Ayesha J.	22	7KRE	82.1%
4	Seerat	14	7BN	75.9%
5	Iliam, Martyna	11	7GKE	75%

Have a sunny weekend!

Next week - The Greyfriars Literary Festival in pictures!

GENERAL NOTICES

Message for Year 7 | Mr Cunningham

It has been a very positive start to the new half term, and it has been lovely to see students returning to school with energy and enthusiasm for the weeks ahead. As the term continues, we are encouraging students to think carefully about how they contribute to our school community, both inside and outside the classroom. Small actions such as supporting one another, showing kindness, and taking pride in their work help to create the welcoming and respectful environment that we value so highly.

In form time and assemblies, we have also been reflecting on the importance of responsibility and perseverance. Whether this is completing homework, preparing for assessments, or simply giving their best effort in lessons, we are encouraging students to recognise that consistent effort leads to progress. As always, we greatly appreciate the continued support of families in helping students maintain positive routines and high expectations, and we look forward to another productive and rewarding half term together.



7GKE lead our achievement points table this week with 406, and our individual leader this week is Irelan with 31!

7GKE	406
7BN	241
7ALW	199
7KR	160

Irelan	31
Imiyah	25
Mollie	25
Iliam	22
Elena	21
Madison	21
Isma	20
Mya	20
Asiya	19

Assistant Site Manager Vacancy

We are looking to appoint a reliable, self-motivated person to support the Head Caretaker at Greyfriars Catholic School.

The successful candidate would, ideally have previous experience in a school environment. They must have the ability to display a conscientious and logical approach to the variety of tasks necessary for the smooth running of the school. The role will involve the unlocking and locking of the school as well as ad-hoc maintenance and repairs.

For more information and to make an application, please go to [mynewterm](https://www.greyfriarsoxford.org.uk/mynewterm)

GENERAL NOTICES



Greyfriars Catholic School
Invites you to a

FREE BREAKFAST!

Get an energy boost before
class with a **FREE** breakfast -
don't miss out!

When: Every week day
Where: School Restaurant
Time: 8:00am-8:30am

 family
action

National School Breakfast Programme is delivered by Family Action.
Find out more at family-action.org.uk/NSBP.

Family Action. Registered as a Charity in England & Wales no. 264713.
Registered as a Charity in the Isle of Man no. 1206. Registered Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales no. 01068186.

School Lunch Accounts

Please remember to regularly check your child has enough funds in their ParentPay lunch accounts and if this is running low please top up. Students will be unable to purchase food in the restaurant if they do not have enough funds in their account.

Please note that we are a cashless school and cannot accept cash for lunch payments.



If you are having trouble accessing your ParentPay account, please contact the school.

Astroturf

Please remember that your child needs Astroturf trainers or turf football boots – see the picture adjacent for examples of the shoes that are permitted.

Students wearing the incorrect footwear will not be permitted on the Astroturf.

Football boots can be bought for as little as £4.99 via Sports Direct (Sondico ones).

We will hold some spare boots to lend to students if necessary, however, these are to be returned at the end of the lesson. This way we can ensure we always have a supply of boots for those students who forget theirs or are in the process of buying their own.

If anyone has spare Astro shoes that they would like to donate to the school, this would be much appreciated. These would be used or students to borrow as explained above.



GENERAL NOTICES

Friends of Greyfriars (PTA)

Friends of Greyfriars is an open and important community of parent volunteers working alongside the school and teachers to benefit the school. It is like a PTA. It is a group that aims to ensure the best educational and enrichment experience for all its students. Friends of Greyfriars is a reflection of the school in the wider community.

By joining the Friends of Greyfriars you can help the school to build a far more effective and up-to-date teaching and learning environment, for the benefit of all its students. Everyone is welcome, parents, carers, staff, governors, past students, past parents, anyone and everyone who cares about the school. Please join us and be a Friend.

If you are interested, please contact Sophie Upellini via: s.upellini@gfcs.uk

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.

free period products



In partnership with hey girls...

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Free School Meals

Are you entitled?

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household earnings must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

If you would like to apply, please contact Fiona Easton for an application form via: f.easton@gfcs.uk

GENERAL NOTICES

Dates for your Diary

- 02 – 13 March | Greyfriars Literary Festival
- 06 – 15 March | British Science Week
- 11 March | Y8 – Y11 Catch-up HPV Immunisations
- 12 March | Oxford Young Sports Leaders – Day 2
- 13 March | Chapel Mass – Lent Service
- 17 – 20 March | Curiosity Cube
- 18 March | GFCS Science Fair
- 19 March | Oxford Young Sports Leaders – Day 3
- 19 March | Year 9 Options Evening

Donations

If you wish to make a donation to the school please click on the link.

DONATE

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!



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

Archdiocese of Birmingham Vacancies



<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/jobs>



You Tube

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Falcon Boat Club: a community club for all



Discover the joy of rowing on the River Thames in Oxford

LEARN TO ROW IN 2026

Welcoming, fun and supportive for beginners. No previous experience or fitness level is needed - just a willingness to give it a go!

Next course starts

APRIL

Sign up now for a Weekend Taster Session

Discounted course spaces available for those in financial hardship, including those on Universal Credit and low-incomes.

REGISTER NOW



Falcon Boat Club: Learn to Row on your Doorstep

We've just launched registration for our next Learn to Row course, designed specifically to be welcoming, supportive and accessible for beginners. No previous experience or fitness level is needed – just a willingness to give it a go. Rowing is a brilliant way to build confidence, improve physical and mental wellbeing, and connect with others in a safe and encouraging environment. We know many community groups are looking for inclusive activities where beginners feel comfortable trying something new, and we're committed to making this course as open and supportive as possible.

After the Learn to Row course, many go on to join the Women's or Men's Development Squads, a great supportive and safe environment to continue to learn new skills.

The next course runs primarily at weekends over 5-6 weeks, and starts in April with the option of a taster session before committing to the full course (Running Sat 4th & Sun 5th April and Sat 11th & Sun 12th April)

[Register here.](#)

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMPS

GET SET FOR ULTIMATE EASTER & SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN!

Outstanding holiday day camps with over 40 activities every week

For ages 4 to 14

Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm

EARLY BOOKING OFFER NOW ON!

At Headington Rye Oxford in Oxford

Ultimate savings when you book early!

ULTIMATE SURVIVAL

GO WILD FOR A WHILE!

Fun and adventurous outdoor summer day camps, fully-immersed in the natural environment

For ages 7 to 14

Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm

EARLY BOOKING OFFER NOW ON!

Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, Farmoor nr Oxford

Ultimate savings when you book early!

OXFORD UNITED IN THE COMMUNITY www.ouitc.org

GIRLS ONLY PREMIER LEAGUE KICKS TUESDAY IN OXFORD YEAR 7 - YEAR 13 5:00PM - 6:00PM

Leys Pools and Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road Oxford OX4 6JL

FUN AND SOCIAL FOOTBALL FREE TO ATTEND.

Contact Us plkicks@oufc.co.uk

Premier League Kicks OXFORD UNITED

Oxford Quins RFC

Rugby Club

GREYFRIARS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Great work so far, everyone, in our Rugby Club. We have been very impressed by your enthusiasm and ability to pick up new skills so quickly – and we're only in week 3!

As a reminder, we have worked on the fundamentals of rugby play:

- Run forwards, pass backwards
- Shoot the ball from the hip like a rocket
- Evasion - Stepping and swerving
- Chicken scratch on touch
- Retreating in defence

We'll continue to build on these skills in the coming weeks.

We plan to enter teams into the England Touch Schools Championship in the Summer Term – so something very exciting to work towards. Take a look at this video for some more details about the Touch game.

If you are interested in doing a bit more rugby, then please consider coming along to Oxford Quins RFC. We train at the Horspath Sports Ground, DX4 28R on a Wednesday evening at 6-7pm or 7-8pm (depending on age group). And we play fixtures on a Sunday. It was a proud week for us at Quins, as Greg Ffoliaw was picked for England's Six Nations squad. Look out for him on TV in the coming weeks.

GREG FISILAU

ENGLAND SIX NATIONS CALL-UP

Bring your Boots!

Running on grass is so much easier if you are wearing studs. If you have them, please remember to bring your rugby or football boots along.

If you don't have any boots but would like some, please speak with Miss Kenneford.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday!

From Laura and the Quins coaching team.

Blackbird Leys COMMUNITY LARDER

Oxford Hub Working together to build a better Oxford

What is a community larder?

A membership programme that provides:

- Access to utility discounts and social tariffs
- Local business discounts
- Little larder club
- Meet new people in a friendly environment

Who can join? Anyone who wants to prevent food waste and save money. It is not means tested.

Where does the food come from? A Diced based charity, providing surplus food, training and opportunities to young people and organisations.

£10 P/YEAR ANNUAL JOINING FEE + **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP FROM £3.50 A WEEK** = **FAMILY MEMBERSHIP FROM £7 A WEEK**

An individual membership provides up to 10 items of non-perishables (paste, tins etc) per week plus free fruit and vegetables. A family membership is twice as much.

We offer hot drinks in our back room to all members and volunteers, this is from around 12.30.

Want free food and a bunch of other benefits? Sign up today! www.sofea.uk.com

Registered Charity Number 1051962

COMMUNITY LARDER SOFEA

Parent Power

We support local parents living in the OX4 area

Our team of Parent Advocates (local parents), Donna, Kerrisa and Kylie, can support you with:

- Practical and emotional support
- Connecting with your child's school or local organisations, such as attending parents' evenings with you.
- Connecting you to a network of parents so you can support each other.
- Help and support with form filling

Need help? Want to get involved?

Get in touch with the team: Email: donna@oxfordhub.org

Oxford Hub

oxfordhub.org/parent-power

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Oxford Hub

FREE
PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM
POP-UP SHOP

DROP IN SUPPORT AVAILABLE DURING THIS SESSION WITH
THE PARENT POWER TEAM

Open every Monday from
12th January
12-2PM
Templers Square Shopping
Centre



FOR MORE INFO CONTACT KYLIE 07707918532
KYLIE@OXFORDHUB.ORG

MORE
7th-8th March
BIG
Open Weekend
Try our facilities
for FREE



let's do
MORE

Free Family Activities & FREE Swimming Lessons – 7th & 8th March

Families across Oxford are invited to the Big Open Weekend on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th March at Leys Pools & Leisure Centre, Ferry Leisure Centre and Barton Leisure Centre.

As part of the weekend, we're offering **FREE swimming lessons for children of all ages and abilities**.

Whether it's your child's very first time in the pool, they're building water confidence, or they're ready to improve their technique and progress to the next level, our friendly, qualified instructors are here to help.

Our lessons are delivered in a fun, safe and supportive environment, with a clear progressive pathway to help every child grow in confidence and ability at their own pace.

This is a fantastic opportunity to experience our swim programme at no cost and see how we can support your child's swimming journey.

Find out more and book here:
 • Leys Pools & Leisure Centre – <https://www.oxfordcityleisure.com/leys-pools-leisure-centre/>
 • Ferry Leisure Centre – <https://www.oxfordcityleisure.com/ferry-leisure-centre/>
 • Barton Leisure Centre – <https://www.oxfordcityleisure.com/barton-leisure-centre/>

Beyond the Classroom
TRINITY COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Trinity College Beyond the Classroom (BTC) Online Academic Enrichment Programme is starting again on Tuesdays from 10 March at 4:30pm, until 7 July 2026!!

Registrations for 2026 are now OPEN!
Our online after-school academic enrichment programme in 2026 will feature a new series of mini lectures. Explore taster sessions, academic skills talks and advice about preparing for university study.

A certificate of participation from Trinity College, Oxford, for those attending 7 or more sessions!


Open to all students in Year 7-12 in a state school.

Register for the programme via this link: [Trinity Beyond the Classroom 2026](#). Or the QR Code below

More details can be found on our website which will be updated as [themes for the programme](#). Once you have registered, we will contact you 24 hrs prior to the start of each session with the joining details.

BTC Year 12 Trinity College Visit Days

If you are now in Year 12, attend a state school and are seriously considering applying to study one of the [19 courses](#) Trinity College admits for to study at the University of Oxford, when you register for the standard online programme, you can also express an interest in a place on one of our BTCR Trinity College Visit Days (date tbc)

SENse Learning is running six workshops, designed to support parents and carers with practical guidance, up-to-date information, and strategies that can be used at home. The sessions are a great way to learn, build understanding, and gain confidence in supporting your child's development and wellbeing.

Workshop topics include:

- 28th Jan | Parenting styles and attachment [Book here](#)
- 11th Feb | Brain development in children and young people [Book here](#)
- 25th Feb | Self-regulation and sleep [Book Here](#)
- 11th Mar | Online safety [Book here](#)
- 25th Mar | Understanding young people's mental health [Book here](#)

Booking information

All workshops are free to attend and will be delivered online
 Tickets can be booked via Eventbrite
 Places are limited, so we encourage early booking


Full details of each session, including dates and times, are available on the Eventbrite booking page

DR.EAM ASPIRE

ARE YOU A YEAR 10-12 STUDENT
CONSIDERING A CAREER IN HEALTHCARE?


ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ADVICE FROM HEALTHCARE
PROFESSIONALS?

Saturday 14th March 2026
10AM - 3:30PM
Online - Zoom Webinar



Join our healthcare conference for Year 10-12 students!

- ✓ Talks from surgeons, physiotherapists, dentists, and many more healthcare professionals
- ✓ Guidance on the university application process & work experience

 **BWAMS** Sign up at: <https://gck.fm/cjria>

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

EASTER & SUMMER 2026

The WOW Camp

SCIENCE, VIRTUAL REALITY, ANIMAL WORKSHOPS, INFLATABLES, ROBOTS, STREET DANCE, PINNACRAFT, LASER TAG

STEM. Creativity. Physical Play
All in one camp

HMRC TAX-FREE CHILD CARE ACCEPTED

www.nextthing.education

SCAN TO BOOK!

EASTER & SUMMER CAMPS

Tech-powered camps, packed with **WOW** experiences!

Example camp activities

Camps run 9 am - 4 pm

ROBOT LAB	LEGO ENGINEERING	ELECTRIC INVENTIONS	3D CREATIONS	ANIMATION
COOL CIRCUITS	CRAZY CODING	MOVIE MAKING	MINECRAFT REDSTONE	VIRTUAL REALITY

NEW FOR EASTER - WOW EXPERIENCES

INFLATABLES	ANIMALS	STREET DANCE	SCIENCE	LASER TAG
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Activities vary by location. Please visit our website to see what's running at your venue.

WHAT TO EXPECT:
At Next Thing Education, our goal is to ignite curiosity, fuel creativity, and empower young minds for the future!
Blending hands-on tech exploration with unforgettable WOW experiences, we inspire children to invent, create, and discover. Led by DBS-checked, friendly and supportive instructors, kids build confidence while diving into exciting activities, challenges, and real skill-building adventures.

LIMITED SPACES - BOOK NOW!

WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION T: 01442 873150

OXFORDSHIRE PARENT CARERS FORUM
A Voice for Parent Carers in Oxfordshire

CAMHS
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

WEDNESDAY WEBINAR SERIES

Wednesdays | 12:00-1:30 PM

To register for a webinar visit: <https://oxpcf.org.uk/webinars>

- 24 September 2025**
What to Expect from the CAMHS: NDC (Neurodevelopmental Conditions) Service
- 22 October 2025**
Supporting family member's mental health through compassion
- 26 November 2025**
Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA)
- 17 December 2025**
Autistic Burnout
- 28 January 2026**
Demand Avoidance
- 25 February 2026**
Understanding, preventing, and supporting meltdowns
- 25 March 2026**
Support in the community for young adults (post-18)

These sessions, presented in partnership with CAMHS, aim to provide insights, expert guidance, and discussions on key topics related to SEND.
To learn more or register for a webinar please visit: oxpcf.org.uk/webinars

ACTIVE ADVENTURES
RESIDENT CLUB

Give your child an unforgettable school holiday filled with fresh air, freedom and adventure!

Set within 42 acres of stunning woodland in rural Oxfordshire at Youlbury, Boars Hill, children aged 8-16 will take part in a daily programme of non-stop outdoor action. With expert instructors leading the way, creating a safe and supportive environment where children run, climb, explore, and build confidence while unplugging from screens and having a blast with friends in the great outdoors!

What's on offer:

- High-energy adventures such as archery, ziplining, and climbing.
- Fun team building games and problem-solving challenges.
- Survival skills such as shelter building, backwoods cooking and fire lighting.
- Connect with the natural world with mindful activities, outdoors arts and crafts, wildlife spotting, and nature walks.

When is it:

- Running throughout school holidays - February, Easter, May, Summer and October (see website for dates).
- 9am-5pm daily.
- Early drop off (from 8am) and late pick-up (until 6pm) available.
- Participants can attend individual days, or the entire week.

Pricing:
£35 per day, per child. Save 10% on a 5-day block and each additional child.

Book now and join the adventure!

www.scoutadventures.org.uk/events
activeadventures@scoutadventures.org.uk
Scout Adventures Youlbury, Boars Hill, Oxford OX1 5HD

Scout Adventures is owned and operated by The Scout Association. Reg Charity number 204670 (England and Wales). Registered address: The Scout Association, 21 West Park, Dorking, Surrey, England GU14 7JG.

LEYS YOUTH HUB

LOCATION: LEYS POOL AND LEISURE CENTRE, PEGASUS ROAD

FREE ACTIVITIES FOR 11 - 18

MONDAYS 3.30 PM - 5.30PM:
CREATIVE SESSION
BAKING, ART, MUSIC

THURSDAYS 3.30 PM - 5PM:
CREATIVE SESSION
COOKING, BAKING, ART, MUSIC

TUESDAYS 4PM - 6PM:
GIRLS GROUP
NAILS & BEAUTY, GAMES, MOVIE NIGHTS

PLUS ROCK CLIMBING (PREBOOK ONLY)

MONDAY 5.30PM - 6.30PM
THURSDAY 5PM - 6PM & 6PM - 7PM

TUESDAYS 6.35PM - 8PM:
OPEN ACCESS
GAMES, COOKING, CHILL OUT

CALL LYDIA ON 07483007103
OR JEN ON 07483010739

FOR ROCK CLIMBING BOOKINGS EMAIL: LEYSYOUTHUB@OXFORD.GOV.UK

Are you at risk of losing your home?

We can help you to avoid eviction

Our Housing Support Service Team can help keep a roof over your head by providing you with the tools to manage your money, navigate benefits, be independent, and avoid homelessness. Our team will help you gain control of your situation by working alongside you, to fully understand the challenges you are facing, so we can tailor our support. This free service is for individuals and families over the age of 16, who are residents in Oxfordshire.

Get in touch

enquiries@connectionsupport.org.uk
01865 711267
connectionsupport.org.uk

Drop-in details:

Visit our website to download the referral form

Connection Support

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Online FREE talk by Jane Keyworth

Anxiety Based School Avoidance

March 26th 7-8pm



Book online

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

go to PARENTS - Live Talks page

All 16 parent talks FREE with our School Membership



March 2026 Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long
£24 each or FREE with School Membership
Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk
Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Improving Family Communication	2 Mar 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	2 Mar 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	3 Mar 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	3 Mar 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	9 Mar 10am
Understanding Anger	9 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	10 Mar 10am
Facing Defiance	10 Mar 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	16 Mar 10am
Anxiety Explained	16 Mar 7pm
Introduction to OCD	17 Mar 10am
What is ACT	17 Mar 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	23 Mar 10am
Decreasing Depression	23 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	24 Mar 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	24 Mar 7pm
FREE Anxiety Based School Avoidance	26 Mar 7-8pm

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.

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

CALLING ALL YEAR 11 - YEAR 13

SOCIAL FOOTBALL DURING YOUR EXAMS!

EVERY MONDAY 8:30PM TO 10:00PM BICESTER

EVERY TUESDAY 6:30PM - 8:00PM OXFORD

Abingdon Witney College

Oxfordshire Adult Learning

A FACILITY OF ABINGDON & WITNEY COLLEGE

Free Workshops for Parents at Oxford Hub

Oxford Hub at Windale School
Windale Ave, Oxford OX4 6JD

Date and Time	Suitable for	Workshop
Wednesday 25/2/26 13:00 - 14:30	Parents/Carers of primary school age children	Emotional Regulation Understand what is meant by emotional regulation and introduce Zones of Regulation as a tool to support your child.
Wednesday 4/3/26 13:00 - 14:30	Parents/Carers of primary school age children	Developing Resilience Understand what resilience is and what factors influence a child's ability to be resilient and develop tools to support your child to develop resilience.
Wednesday 11/3/26 13:00 - 14:30	Parents/Carers of primary school age children	Managing Meltdowns Effectively Find out about the connection between the senses and meltdowns and developing strategies to support your child with meltdowns.
Wednesday 18/3/26 13:00 - 14:30	Parents/Carers of nursery age children	Developing Communication With Your Child Understanding benchmarks and strategies to support the development of Speech, Language and Communication at home.
Wednesday 25/3/26 13:00 - 14:30	Parents/Carers of nursery age children	Early Maths for Parents Gain understanding of the areas of maths that are taught in Reception and learn strategies and activities to support your child's enjoyment and learning of maths.

To enroll, contact Penelope Lea (Family Learning Tutor)
penelope.lea@abingdon-witney.ac.uk
These sessions are fully funded so are free to families living in Oxfordshire (Ts and Cs apply).

Low cost and free activities for families to enjoy together!

YouMove is brand new for Oxfordshire, providing low cost and free fun activities for families including weekends & school holidays.

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

Find out more here:

YouMove is here to offer free and low cost activities for children on benefit related free school meals and their families.

YOU MOVE