

# Weekly Newsletter

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026 | Issue 24

Dear Families

We begin this term in the light of Easter. For us as Catholics, Easter is the celebration of renewal, hope and new life. It reminds us that no matter the challenges we face, there is always the possibility of transformation and new beginnings. It is a time to reflect on what we carry forward, what we leave behind, and how we continue to grow in faith, love and purpose.

We ended last term in a rich and joyful way. It was a week filled with opportunity and celebration. We were delighted to host a Cricket Skills Day, welcoming students into new experiences, and our Business students took part in our annual Made in Oxford trip, connecting learning to the wider world. Our Big Lent Walk for CAFOD was a wonderful expression of faith in action, as students contributed to supporting communities beyond our own.

We were also incredibly proud of our Oxford Sports Leaders, who, in partnership with Oxford University, completed their programme and celebrated this achievement together. These moments of recognition matter; they speak to the commitment, leadership and generosity of our students.

Of course, the term culminated in our Awards Assemblies, which are always such joyful occasions. These events celebrate not only academic achievement, but the many ways students contribute to our wider school life. We now have a lovely tradition of ending these assemblies with a song and so we finished the term with a real sense of collective joy and belonging.

At the very start of the week, we also marked the Feast of Divine Mercy, a powerful reminder that at the heart of our faith is forgiveness, compassion and the opportunity to begin again. Mercy calls us to look at one another with kindness, to restore relationships, and to build a community rooted in understanding and love.

This week, we have returned with that same energy and purpose. Our focus for this term is Stewardship of God's Creation: caring for ourselves, for one another, and for the world around us. At this important point in the year, we are also reflecting on the idea of legacy: what we leave behind, both in our relationships and in the physical spaces we share.

At Greyfriars, we hold firmly to the idea that we should always leave things better than we found them. Whether that is through a kind word, a thoughtful action, or the way we care for our environment, each of us has the power to shape the world around us. This has been a key focus in our assemblies this week, reminding students that their actions matter, and that even the smallest choices contribute to something bigger.

It has been a purposeful and positive start to the term, and I look forward to all that lies ahead this term and year. I hope you have a joyful weekend with some glimpses of summer sun too.

Lyndsey Caldwell  
Headteacher

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

### Gospel | John 20:19-31



On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

#### Reflection

In reality, Thomas is not the only one who struggles to believe. In fact, he represents all of us a little bit. Indeed, it is not always easy to believe, especially when, as in his case, one has suffered a tremendous disappointment. In order to believe, Thomas wants an extraordinary sign — to touch the wounds. Jesus shows them to him, but in an ordinary way, coming in front of everyone, in the community, not outside. Without the community, it is difficult to find Jesus. Despite all of her limitations and failures, which are our limitations and failings, our Mother Church is the Body of Christ. And it is there, in the Body of Christ, that, still now and forever, the greatest signs of his love can be found impressed.

#### Prayer for the Sunday of Divine Mercy

O God, whose mercies are without number and whose treasure of goodness is infinite, graciously increase the faith of the people consecrated to you, that all may grasp and rightly understand by whose love they have been created, through whose Blood they have been redeemed, and by whose Spirit they have been reborn. Through Christ our Lord. 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

Welcome back for our Easter term! We hope that you had a lovely Easter holiday with your family. Halfway through the break, the Church celebrated its most important moment, which is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we enter these 50 days of Eastertide, we pray that all of our students and families feel the renewal, the hope, and the promise of new life that comes.



Before this arrived, we concluded our Lent at school by going on a Big Lent Walk in Florence Park. Over a hundred students joined, and we successfully raised £150 to send to CAFOD, building floating gardens to provide food for those affected by floods in Bangladesh.



Looking ahead this term, we are continuing to partner with Citizens UK to make traffic more accessible and easy for our school community and others in the city. If you have the time, we'd love for you to fill out [this survey](#). The more stories we have about how bus prices and slow traffic affect your life, the more we will be able to enact change from the council. Thank you for your voices!

### Sixth Form News | Ms McCabe

**Y12 Term 5 & 6** | Y12 had an assembly this week where they reflected on their goals and how their daily routines and decisions feed into these goals. They are now looking ahead to their end of Y13 destinations and the Y12 summer exams. More information about the UCAS process and the summer PPEs to follow shortly.

**Y12 Trip to Oxford Brookes for the Think Human Festival** | Y12 will be visiting Oxford Brookes today to attend workshops that are part of the Think Human Festival. We will share a full report of the event and what our students got up to in next week's newsletter.

**Y13 Celebration Evening, Leavers Service & Yearbook** | Letters have gone home today with details about the Y13 Celebration Evening (Tuesday June 23rd) and the Leavers Service (Thursday June 25th). We are really looking forward to both of these events and the opportunity for students to celebrate their journey with us at Greyfriars. We are also hoping to produce a yearbook which is already underway. In order to meet the deadline for this, students need to submit their photos as soon as possible.

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Celebrating Success at the Made in Oxford Competition | Mrs Longley-Williams

The Business Department would like to highlight and celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students who recently took part in the *Made in Oxford Competition*. Our girls' team (Progress, Alicia, Amiyah, Faith and Juliet) was placed second among six teams. This prestigious event brings together talented young people in Oxford encouraging creativity, innovation, and teamwork and our students truly rose to the occasion.

Participants demonstrated exceptional skill, dedication, and originality in their projects. From innovative designs to thoughtful problem-solving, their work reflected not only academic excellence but also a strong commitment to pushing boundaries and thinking creatively.

A special congratulations goes to those students who were recognised with awards and commendations. Their hard work and perseverance have paid off, and they have set a fantastic example for their peers. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and the way they represented our school with confidence and enthusiasm.

### Hospitality & Catering | Mrs Awanyo

**On a Roll!** At the end of last term Year 10s mastered the ultimate picnic dup: **Sausage Rolls & Coleslaw**

This was a fun and rewarding experience for our students. They enjoyed getting hands-on in the kitchen, learning how to prepare ingredients, follow recipes, and work safely as a team. Rolling the pastry and shaping the sausage rolls helped develop their practical skills, while mixing the fresh coleslaw introduced them to healthy ingredients and food preparation techniques.

The activity also encouraged teamwork, patience, and creativity, as students took pride in their finished products.

The results were impressive with golden, flaky pastry paired with a zesty, crunchy side. It's great to see the students gaining the confidence to move away from shop-bought snacks and create high-quality, homemade versions from scratch.



Best of all, they loved tasting what they had made! Experiences like this are a great way to build confidence and inspire an interest in cooking and healthy eating.

## GENERAL NOTICES

### KS3 Textiles | Mrs Byrne

KS3 pupils have recently completed their rotation in Textiles, producing a range of fantastic and creative outcomes.

#### Year 7 Felt Slippers

Pupils explored the work of Yayoi Kusama, Native American art, and the Memphis Design movement. Using these influences, they designed and created their own handmade felt before sewing their own felt slippers and decorated with embroidery techniques.



#### Year 8 Squishmallows

Pupils investigated a variety of themes to inspire their designs. They then developed and made their own 3D Squishmallow-style soft toys using felt, showcasing creativity and individuality and learning different sewing and embroidery techniques.



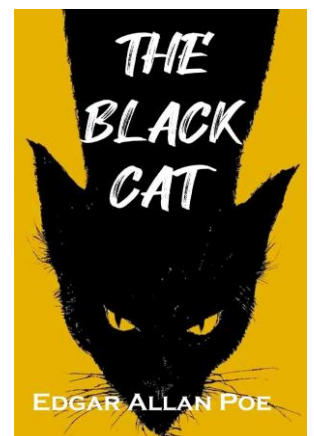
#### Year 9 Printed and Batik Cushions

Pupils drew inspiration from Māori cultural art and Tamara Phillips to design and produce their own printed and batik cushions, experimenting with pattern, colour, they developed batik and printing techniques.

### Weekly Book Review by Lian

A thrilling short horror story with the right amount of eeriness. Like most of Poe's tales you get a sense of that buzzing fear or anxiety that the narrator usually holds. With this story it isn't really tonally different from the rest of Poe's works yet that doesn't hold back the heart pounding paranoia and even mania felt while reading! It's an interesting take on omens and superstition, and most definitely plays on the feeling of being afraid but also a sense of lingering guilt or regret even if it seems rather subtle.

It's one of those stories where it just really sticks for a while or at least I thought so the first time I read it!



## GENERAL NOTICES

### Message for Year 8 and Year 9 | Mrs Reddy

We are delighted to welcome Year 8 and Year 9 back after the Easter break. Students have quickly settled into routines, engaged positively in lessons, and met expectations for behaviour and learning. Their strong start sets a positive tone for the term ahead. As we move further into the summer term, there are several important dates for families to be aware of:

#### Save the Date!

Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening | **Wednesday 23rd April 4pm–7pm**

Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening | **Wednesday 7th May, 4pm-7pm**

Year 9 TDP/MenACWY Immunisations | **Wednesday 14th May**

The booking portal for both consultation evenings is now open, and booking instructions were sent home earlier this week. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to make appointments with their child's teachers.

For Year 9, these conversations are especially important as students prepare to transition into Key Stage 4 and begin their GCSE journey. For Year 8, this is a key moment as they move into their final year of Key Stage 3, where they will begin thinking about GCSE options and future pathways.

Your engagement and partnership make a significant difference to students' progress, confidence and readiness for the next stage of their education. We look forward to seeing many of you at these events and continuing to work together to support our young people.

#### Students leading the way

| Year 8   | Year 9  |
|----------|---------|
| Crystal  | Tyler   |
| Haider   | Jason   |
| Wissam   | Eleesha |
| Kristian | Sylvia  |
| Ephraim  | Salmon  |
| Grant    | Hila    |
| Hafsah   | Gemma   |
| Louise   | Tatiana |
| Dylan    | Leyna   |
| Kerfala  | Darcy   |

### Oxford Parkour Visit Inspires Year 7 Girls | Miss Kenneford

On Wednesday, we were pleased to welcome Oxford Parkour Activities into school to run an exciting session for a selected group of Year 7 girls. During the session, the girls learnt a variety of parkour skills, including rolls, jumps, and runs, using equipment such as boxes, boards, and mats. The activities encouraged them to step out of their comfort zones, develop coordination, and build confidence in their abilities.



It was fantastic to see how quickly the girls grew in confidence as the session progressed. Staff commented on how inspiring it was to watch their determination and willingness to challenge themselves.

With more sessions planned over the next two weeks, we are excited to see how the girls continue to progress and develop their skills.



## GENERAL NOTICES

### Message for Year 7 | Mr Cunningham

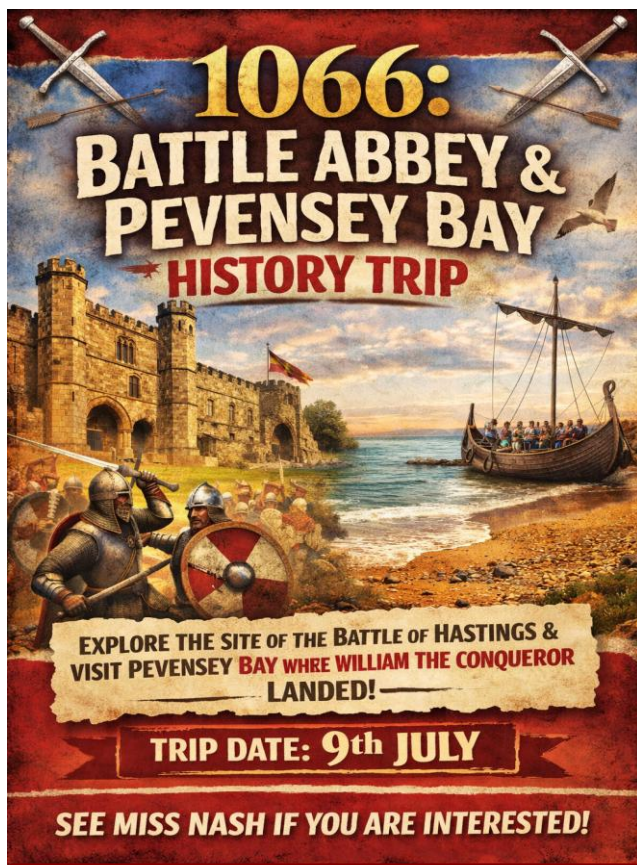
It has been lovely to welcome all students back to school this week, and to see such a positive and settled start to the new term. We hope everyone had a restful break and has returned ready to engage fully with the opportunities ahead.

This term, our Catholic Life focus is centred on our community and how we care for it. In assemblies and form time, students will be reflecting on the importance of supporting one another, showing respect, and taking responsibility for the environment and people around them. We are encouraging all students to consider the small, everyday actions they can take to make our school community a kind, inclusive, and supportive place for all.

Congratulations to our top achievement point scorers this week, particularly Kairo leading the way with 46!

|              |    |             |            |
|--------------|----|-------------|------------|
| Kairo        | 46 |             |            |
| Amelia-Grace | 43 |             |            |
| Esther       | 43 | <b>7KR</b>  | <b>485</b> |
| Faaris       | 41 | <b>7GKE</b> | <b>476</b> |
| Innocent     | 30 | <b>7BN</b>  | <b>344</b> |
| Martyna      | 30 | <b>7ALW</b> | <b>211</b> |
| Jeffrey      | 30 |             |            |
| Chloe        | 30 |             |            |
| Roseanne     | 27 |             |            |

Our leading form this week was 7KR, but all forms starting as they mean to go on with some great totals!



Year 10 students are invited to take part in a trip to the site of the Battle of Hastings, where they will explore the battlefield and develop their understanding of how and why the battle was fought in 1066. Students will also study the religious and cultural significance of Battle Abbey, built to commemorate the victory of William the Conqueror. The trip concludes with a visit to Pevensey Bay, the landing site of the Norman invasion, bringing the events of 1066 to life. This forms part of the examined historical environment study.

Interested Year 9 students who have chosen History should speak to Miss Nash.

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Library News | Miss Brett

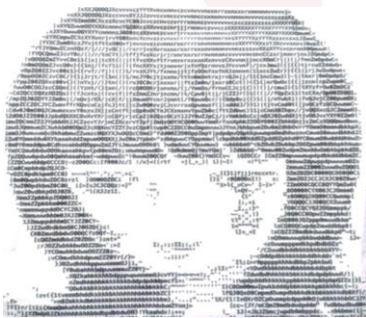
Welcome back, avid and future readers! I am so happy the sun is finally out ☺. Did you know that April is the AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH!



To celebrate how wonderfully different we all are (whether it be due to Autism, ADHD, other wiring of your brain, or just because), I have a doodle challenge that I would like everybody to join. Come and pick up your copy of the doodle and finish the picture in your own unique way. We will display the works side by side to showcase our individuality and unique perspectives.



Speaking of artistic inclinations, here are a couple of great cover designs produced by Y7 students during last term Enrichment sessions: Song or Poem? In future issues, I will be sharing some verses too!



I am also very happy to tell you that we had the most amazing donation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's collection, thank you, Ms Stuart!

Now for the first Reading Championship report – it's all to play for! We are only just starting the term, so anybody could win! Borrow books, read them, and encourage your classmates to do the same. I am here if you're not sure what to pick .

There will be lots going on in the library this term, but I will let you ease in, so just come and borrow a book, pick up your doodle, a competition sheet, or just come and have a chat! Until next week!

| TERM 4   WEEK 4 |                                                                           |    |                                  |       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|-------|
|                 | Reading Champ                                                             |    | Tutor Group Reading Championship |       |
| 1               | Roisin                                                                    | 13 | 8BMO                             | 68%   |
| 2               | Ayesha, Martyna                                                           | 3  | 7ALW                             | 17.4% |
| 3               | Humaira, Jacob, Antonio, Stuthi, Aseda, Kanchan, Diogo, Esther O, Blossom | 3  | 7BN                              | 13.3% |
| 4               | Many                                                                      | 1  | 10SA                             | 12.5% |
| 5               |                                                                           |    | 7KR                              | 10.3% |

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Stars Pathway Weekly Highlights | Mr Jubin

The *Stars Pathway* has returned from the Easter break refreshed, recharged, and full of questions, which is always a promising sign.

In English, pupils ventured into the world of William Shakespeare. They quickly realised that writing poetry with strict structures and rhyming schemes is far more challenging than it first appears. There was a moment of collective optimism, followed by careful thinking, a few puzzled expressions, and then some impressively creative lines that may not have impressed Shakespeare himself but certainly impressed us.

Religious Education brought unexpected excitement. The mere mention of the Eucharist sparked genuine curiosity and enthusiasm. Pupils were keen to explore Christianity further, asking thoughtful questions and showing a level of interest that made the classroom feel more like a lively discussion than a lesson.

In Geography, the class travelled to Brazil without leaving their seats. One pupil's excitement was impossible to miss as his home country took centre stage. Others quickly made connections, confidently mentioning Neymar and the famous Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, proving that football knowledge can indeed be academically useful.

Science lessons took an exciting turn from physics to biology. The study of the human body and skeletal system led to a surge of curious questions, particularly about fractures. It became clear that pupils were not only interested in how the body works, but also in how to fix it, just in case.

Overall, it has been a lively and engaging start to the term, filled with curiosity, enthusiasm, and moments that kept everyone smiling. The *Stars Pathway* is well and truly back in full swing.

### Soft Landing | Mrs Swanton

Well done to (in order of appearance below) Ludozio, Lexi, Mario and Ana for making some beautiful flowers in the soft landing class.



# GENERAL NOTICES

## Restaurant Menu Spring / Summer

**STREATERIES** WEEK 1 Spring/Summer 2026

**MAINS**

- THAI STYLE CHICKEN SATAY with COCONUT RICE
- ITALIAN: HAIK CREAMY CHICKEN CARONARA STYLE LASAGNE
- INDIAN: HOMEMADE GARLIC FOCACCIA
- IRISH: SWEET FRIGARILE GLAZED CHICKEN
- ITALIAN: HERBY SMOKED CRISPY NEW POTATOES
- INDIAN: CHICKEN MADRAS with NAAN BREAD & MINT YOGHURT
- INDIAN: BATTERED FISH PIZZA SLICE with CHIPS, GRavy or BIRNI CURRY SAUCE

**VEGETARIAN**

- SWEET & SPICY VEGETABLE STIR FRY with COCONUT RICE
- TUMBER VEGGABLE & BASIL LASAGNE
- HOMEMADE GARLIC FOCACCIA
- CHEESY BUTTERNUT PUFF PASTRY SLICE
- HERBY SMOKED CRISPY NEW POTATOES
- BUTTER CHICKPEA CURRY with NAAN BREAD & MINT YOGHURT
- YELLOW RICE
- PIZZA SLICE
- CHIPS, GRavy or BIRNI CURRY SAUCE

**VEGETABLES/SALAD**

MONDAY: BROAD BEAN SALAD | TUESDAY: ROASTED VEGETABLES | WEDNESDAY: ROASTED VEGETABLES | THURSDAY: SAUTÉED PEAS | FRIDAY: BAKED BEANS

LET YOUR TASTE BUDS DO THE *travelling!*

HANDCRAFTED DELI SANDWICHES, BAGUETTES, WRAPS, SALADS & MORE!

REGULAR CHEF'S SPECIALS

**HOT RIGHT NOW!** TASTE THE NEXT TREND ON YOUR COUNTERS NOW!

**MID MORNING BREAK CONNECT** Refreshing you between breakfast and your lunchtime destination.

**FEED YOUR FAMILY FOR £5**

**FEEDING BACK** We want to hear from you! Look out for our feedback cards at the till points.

Frishly Made from Scratch **DAILY!** **DAILY MEAL DEALS**

**STREATERIES** WEEK 2 Spring/Summer 2026

**MAINS**

- CAPJIN CHICKEN LOADED MAC CHEESE with Spin and Broccoli
- ITALIAN: HAIK GREEK CHICKEN SALAD with FLATBREAD & TARTARE
- INDIAN: GREEK LEMON & ORZANO WEDGES
- ITALIAN: THINA ROAST CHICKEN, CUMIN YOGHURT & SPICED GRavy
- INDIAN: MANGALA ROASTIES
- INDIAN: NORTH MANGALA LEMON CHICKEN TAGINE
- INDIAN: WEST TOMATO RICE
- BATTERED FISH PIZZA SLICE with CHIPS, GRavy or BIRNI CURRY SAUCE

**VEGETARIAN**

- CLASSIC BAKED MAC with Garlic Crisp Crust
- TURKISH: GREEN CHEESE PLO PIE
- GREEK LEMON & ORZANO WEDGES
- MANGALA SPICED VEGGIE SAUSAGE, CUMIN YOGHURT & SPICED GRavy
- MANGALA ROASTIES
- SWEET WINE WOT ETHIOPIAN LENTIL STEW
- WEST TOMATO RICE
- VEGGIE SAUSAGE
- CHIPS, GRavy or BIRNI CURRY SAUCE

**VEGETABLES/SALAD**

MONDAY: POTATO SALAD | TUESDAY: WESTERN SALAD | WEDNESDAY: FRESH VEGETABLES | THURSDAY: BAKED BEANS | FRIDAY: SAUTÉED PEAS

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Frishly Made from Scratch **DAILY!** **DAILY MEAL DEALS**

**STREATERIES** WEEK 3 Spring/Summer 2026

**MAINS**

- HOMEMADE SMOKY CHICKEN & RED ONION SAUSAGE ROLL with Potato Wedges
- INDIAN: CRISPY HONEY BEARNAISE CHICKEN
- INDIAN: Stir Fried Noodle & Bean Sprouts
- INDIAN: SLOW ROAST PULLED GARLIC & THYME CHICKEN with GRavy
- INDIAN: Skin on Roasties
- INDIAN: SPICY MEXICANA BEEF CORN TACOS with AVOCADO CREAM
- INDIAN: Steamed Rice
- BATTERED FISH PIZZA SLICE with CHIPS, GRavy or BIRNI CURRY SAUCE

**VEGETARIAN**

- SMOKED CHEESE & ONION PASTRY with Potato Wedges
- SWEET CHILI ABERGOMBE, RED PEPPER & KIDNEY BEAN STIR FRY
- GARLIC & THYME ROASTED VEGETABLE BEAN BAKE
- Skin on Roasties
- SPICY BEAN & CHEESE QUESADILLA
- Steamed Rice
- PIZZA SLICE
- VEGGIE SAUSAGE
- CHIPS, GRavy or BIRNI CURRY SAUCE

**VEGETABLES/SALAD**

MONDAY: RED BEAN BEANS | TUESDAY: BEAN SALAD | WEDNESDAY: MEXICANA CARROTS | THURSDAY: MEXICANA CARROTS | FRIDAY: MEXICANA CARROTS

LET YOUR TASTE BUDS DO THE *travelling!*

HANDCRAFTED DELI SANDWICHES, BAGUETTES, WRAPS, SALADS & MORE!

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Frishly Made from Scratch **DAILY!** **DAILY MEAL DEALS**

## Message for KS4 | Mr Weedon

As we begin a new term, it has been fantastic to see such a positive and focused start from both Year 10 and Year 11 students.

Year 11 have already marked an important milestone with the completion of their year group photograph—everyone looked incredibly smart and represented the school brilliantly. With GCSE examinations now just four weeks away, this is a crucial time for students to stay focused, maintain consistent revision habits, and make the most of the revision sessions available both during and after school. These sessions are a valuable opportunity to consolidate knowledge, build confidence, and address any areas of uncertainty.

Year 10 have also returned with a strong and determined attitude, fully engaging with their GCSE courses. It is encouraging to see such a positive approach so early in the term. As we look ahead, students will be preparing for their PPEs this summer, which will be an important step in their GCSE journey and a chance to demonstrate their progress.

We are proud of the commitment shown by both year groups and look forward to supporting them as they continue to work hard and achieve their best this term.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:f.easton@gfcs.uk)

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Dates for your Diary

21 April | Year 8 Into University Buddy Workshop

23 April | Year 8 Into University Buddy Trip to Christ Church

23 April | Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening

7 May | Year 8 Parent Consultation Meeting

11 May | External Exams Begin

14 May | Feast of the Ascension Mass (KS3)

14 May | Year 9 Immunisations

18 May | University Church Bach Concert

21 May | Year 10 Hospitality Trip to Voco Hotel

### 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](mailto: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



**FREE** online talk by

Jane Keyworth

FACE family Advice Lead Facilitator

### Decreasing Depression

23rd April 7-8pm



Book online

[www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Parents - Live Talks page

Donnington Doorstep Family Centre has reopened its **free Youth Club** for young people in OX4.

We offer a safe, welcoming space with activities, support, and a free hot meal each session.

Open **Tuesdays & Wednesdays**

Please see our poster for parental permission details.

PARENTS to COMPLETE FORM

[YOUTH CLUB Registration Form – Fill out form](#)

<https://forms.office.com/e/297mk0U3ck>

| FACE                                                                              |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>May 2026 Timetable</b>                                                         |                     |
| All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long              |                     |
| <b>£24 each or FREE with School Membership</b>                                    |                     |
| Book online at <a href="http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk">facefamilyadvice.co.uk</a> |                     |
| Recordings available for 48 hours                                                 |                     |
| School Anxiety                                                                    | 4 May 10am          |
| Understanding Anger                                                               | 4 May 7pm           |
| Facing Defiance                                                                   | 5 May 10am          |
| Supporting Healthy Screen Use                                                     | 5 May 7pm           |
| Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness                                                   | 11 May 10am         |
| Anxiety Explained                                                                 | 11 May 7pm          |
| Introduction to OCD                                                               | 12 May 10am         |
| What is ACT?                                                                      | 12 May 7pm          |
| Decreasing Depression                                                             | 18 May 10am         |
| Raising Self-Esteem                                                               | 18 May 7pm          |
| Supporting Healthy Sleep                                                          | 19 May 10am         |
| Understanding the Teenage Brain                                                   | 19 May 7pm          |
| Autism: Improving Communication                                                   | 25 May 10am         |
| Improving Family Communication                                                    | 25 May 7pm          |
| Supporting a Child with ADHD                                                      | 26 May 10am         |
| Understanding Addictive Behaviour                                                 | 26 May 7pm          |
| <b>FREE Getting a Good Nights Sleep</b>                                           | <b>28 May 7-8pm</b> |



# 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](http://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](mailto: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 2BR 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 Kennford.

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.fofea.uk.com](http://www.fofea.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](mailto:donna@oxfordhub.org)

**Oxford Hub**

[oxfordhub.org/parent-power](http://oxfordhub.org/parent-power)

## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

# THE RANDOM UNIVERSE

PROF ANDREW H JAFFE

How do we make sense of an uncertain Universe?

In this lecture, inspired by my book, *The Random Universe*, I will weave science, philosophy, and history, from David Hume's challenge to the probabilistic insights of Thomas Bayes. I will tell stories such as Arthur Eddington's eclipse expedition that confirmed Einstein's theory of gravity, and explore ideas from thermodynamics and quantum mechanics that place fundamental limits on certainty.

I will also discuss modern debates about the Big Bang and the difficulty of extracting truth from imperfect data. I will reflect on how science builds knowledge—and why that process matters today.

Book signing of *The Random Universe* to follow the lecture

**Tuesday 21st April 2026**  
5pm  
Marlin Wood Lecture Theatre

For further details, please contact Leanne O'Donnell  
leanne.odonnell@physics.ox.ac.uk

## 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](http://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](http://www.aircadets.tv/2210) Come join us on 20th of April at 8 pm! RSVP: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/6jMhPH4LRE>

**ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS**  
the next generation

For more information about joining the Air Cadets call:

# 0345 600 6601

or go to

[www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets](http://www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets)

Make new friends  
**Have fun**  
Earn BTECs




## THE FINAL THREE

BIGGER MOMENTS. BIGGER MATCHDAYS.  
A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT.  
THE MCGROUP STADIUM (OX3 0NQ)



# FREE TICKETS

USE THE CODE: OXFORDTHREE

**MEN'S FINAL THREE**      **WOMEN'S FINAL THREE**

|                |               |                |               |                |                |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| SAT 28 MAR 3PM | MON 6 APR 3PM | SAT 18 APR 3PM | SUN 5 APR 2PM | SUN 12 APR 2PM | SUN 17 MAY 2PM |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|

SCAN ME



## OPEN DAY

Florence Park Community Centre

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> April: 10.30-11.30am

# CAPTAIN FANTASTIC MAGIC SHOW

For ages 4-7  
Children must be accompanied by an adult

Tickets £5 per child, available from <https://wegottickets.com/f/17782>





## OPEN DAY

19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026  
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

10AM - 5PM IN THE SHEILA TREE ROOM (LOUNGE)  
INFORMATION ABOUT ALL OF OUR ACTIVITIES  
SEE SOME OF OUR ARCHIVES  
MEET THE TRUSTEES

Come along to our open day. Find out more about us. Have a look around. Join in some of our activities. Many activities require booking so be sure to visit our website to get more information [www.florenceparkcommunitycentre.org.uk](http://www.florenceparkcommunitycentre.org.uk)

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>CAPTAIN FANTASTIC MAGIC SHOW</b></p> <p>A Magic Show from Captain Fantastic - 10.30am - 11.30pm<br/>Specially suited to children aged 4-7 years you can expect lots of fun, tricks, laughter, dancing and more!<br/>Accompanying adult must book a ticket and stay throughout the show.</p> | <p><b>LOVE THE GARDEN</b></p> <p>Help our volunteers to tidy the garden. Bring along your tools or secateurs. Just 30 minutes would make all the difference!</p> |
| <p><b>GUIDED WALK</b></p> <p>Join our guided walk around Florence Park with Judith Secker</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>SINGING ASSEMBLY</b></p> <p>TBater Session - Come along to the Singing Assembly and see what it's all about 2pm start with Emily's Music</p>               |
| <p><b>PUPPY TRAINING</b></p> <p>If you have a question about training your puppy or dog, or about its behaviour, come and speak to our local dog trainer.</p>                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>FAMILY PALACES FOR THE 1930S</b></p> <p>A Talk by Frances Moody<br/>3pm</p>                                                                                |
| <p><b>OXFORD UKULELES</b></p> <p>TBater Session - The ukies will be coming to do something!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>AFTERNOON TEA IN THE GARDEN</b></p> <p>Tea/Coffee and snacks served in the garden or hall. Other cakes available 3-5pm</p>                                 |

[www.florenceparkcommunitycentre.org.uk](http://www.florenceparkcommunitycentre.org.uk)      [florenceparkcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:florenceparkcommunitycentre@gmail.com)

## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**EASTER & SUMMER 2026**

**The WOW Camp**

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

STEM. Creativity. Physical Play  
**All in one camp**

HMRC TAX-FREE CHILD CARE ACCEPTED

[www.nextthing.education](http://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 |
|-------------|---------|--------------|---------|-----------|

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](http://WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION) T: 01442 873150

# TRY LOVE RUGBY

WANT TO PLAY RUGBY? TRY OUR FREE FOUR-WEEK INTRO TO RUGBY FOR GIRLS & YOUNG WOMEN

CONTACT [GIRLSRUGBY@OXFORDHARLEQUINS.ORG](mailto:GIRLSRUGBY@OXFORDHARLEQUINS.ORG)

### 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](http://www.scoutadventures.org.uk/events)  
[activeadventures@scoutadventures.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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**

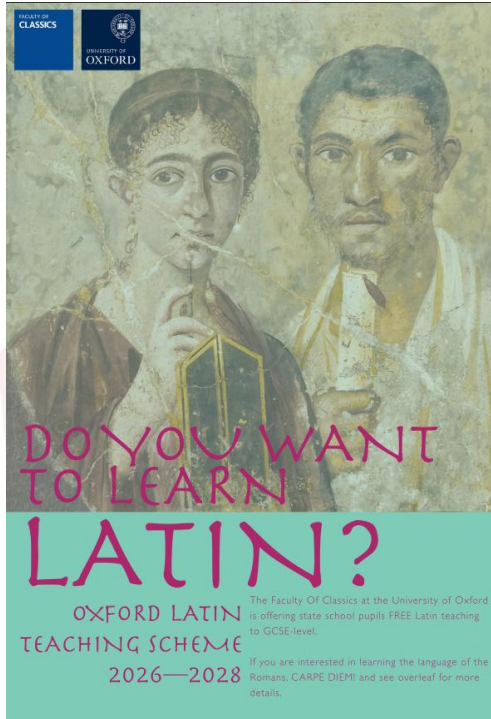
[enquiries@connectionsupport.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@connectionsupport.org.uk)  
01865 711267  
[connectionsupport.org.uk](http://connectionsupport.org.uk)

Drop-in details:

Visit our website to download the referral form

**Connection Support**

## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



**DO YOU WANT TO LEARN LATIN?**

**OXFORD LATIN TEACHING SCHEME 2026—2028**

The Faculty Of Classics at the University of Oxford is offering state school pupils FREE Latin teaching to GCSE-level.

If you are interested in learning the language of the Romans, CARPE DIEM! and see overleaf for more details.



**PARENT WEBINAR**

**NHS Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust**

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](http://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**



**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 12<sup>th</sup> January 12-2PM

Templers Square Shopping Centre



**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT KYLIE 07707918532 KYLIE@OXFORDHUB.ORG**



**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**