

# Weekly Newsletter

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026 | Issue 25

Dear Families

We began the week reflecting on the Gospel story of the Road to Emmaus; a powerful reminder that, in our darkest or most uncertain moments, we can struggle to recognise the truth right in front of us. The disciples walk with Jesus without realising who he is, and it is only later, in reflection, that they begin to understand. It is a message of hope: that even when we feel unsure, we are not alone, and meaning often reveals itself over time.

On Tuesday, we held our first Community Mass, bringing together our school and parish communities in a shared celebration of faith. The intention was simple but important: to strengthen the connection between school and parishes, and to invite our wider Catholic community to celebrate and support the work of Greyfriars. We were delighted to welcome members from a range of parishes, and we are deeply grateful for the generous contributions made, particularly towards our Breakfast Club, which remains free for all students thanks to donations, and our school library. It was a beautiful and uplifting occasion, and I feel very privileged to be part of such a warm and loving community.

This week we have also had the pleasure of hosting 30 Indonesian students, who have joined us to experience life in a British school. I have been incredibly proud of our student mentors, who have welcomed them with such kindness and care. As part of their farewell, our visitors shared a wonderful ceremony, including a traditional dance, a joyful glimpse into another culture. While our students may not yet be fully convinced about incorporating a community dance into future Greyfriars celebrations, I remain hopeful!

We end the week blessed with glorious sunshine, a fitting reminder of our focus this term on Stewardship of God's Creation. It has been a joy to see students simply enjoying one another's company at break and lunch, playing, talking, laughing, good, honest moments of happiness that reflect the strength of our community.

There has been real joy in school this week. I hope you are able to enjoy the sunshine this weekend as well.

With every blessing

Lyndsey Caldwell  
Headteacher

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

### Gospel | Luke 24:13-35 On the Road to Emmaus



13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognising him. 17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one

visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" 19 "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23 but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus." 25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. 28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" 33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.

#### Reflection

The Emmaus story reminds us that Jesus walks with us in disappointment, turning sorrow into hope. In the breaking of bread, the disciples recognise him and discover that their hearts were already burning with new life. The Resurrection assures us that no failure, wound, or darkness is beyond the healing power of God's love.

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may truly be wise and ever enjoy your consolations. 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

This week we had our first ever Celebration and Giving Mass. We invited parents, students, staff, and community members to our school chapel in the evening to celebrate the generosity we've received over the past few months, and to give people the opportunity to give towards future projects of the school. We also launched it as the start of a new team of Catholics in the city, embracing and taking care of the school on behalf of our shared faith. It was a moving, intimate, and joyful event. Multiple people remarked how special it was, and we hope to continue this further.

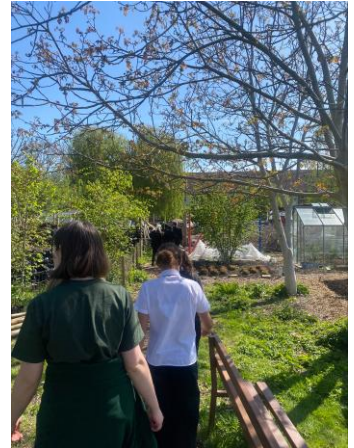


### Mercy in Action

We'd like to specifically acknowledge the generosity of Mercy in Action, a charity that works extensively with students in need, mainly in the Philippines. Their CEO, Allison Todd, has partnered with us for the next few years. This means that they have helped to fund our breakfast club, provide books for our school library, and offer opportunities like work placement at their charity shops in Oxford. We are thrilled for what this brings, and we celebrated this as an example of the Catholic community embracing our school at the mass. We look forward to seeing what's further in store!

### Meadow School Enrichment | Miss Crowther

Our second Meadow School Enrichment session at Oxford City Farm was a brilliant opportunity for our Year 7 students to connect with nature and explore the fascinating world of food growing. On a beautiful sunny day, we were introduced to the core ideas of permaculture, learning about its ethics and principles, and how these guide sustainable and respectful gardening. Our Year 7s began to understand that growing food is not just about planting seeds, but about working in harmony with the environment around us.



A highlight of the session was getting hands-on with soil exploration. Students examined different types of soil and discovered the many bugs and organisms living within them. This helped us to see how healthy soil is alive and plays a vital role in growing strong, nutritious plants. By observing these natural processes up close, we can gain a deeper appreciation for how ecosystems work together and why it is important to care for the land.

We also visited the allotment, where a variety of herbs and greens were thriving. Students enjoyed tasting fresh sorrel leaves and mint, and even sampled refreshing mint water. This really brought food growing to life, showing how rewarding it can be to grow and enjoy your own produce!

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Greyfriars U13 Girls Reach County League Semi-Finals | Mr Roman

On Tuesday this week, the Greyfriars U13 Girls' team played their final game of the County League (City stage) at home, delivering an excellent performance and securing a dominant victory 26–6 against Cherwell School. This result marks an important moment for the team. With two wins and a narrow loss across the competition, Greyfriars have qualified for the Semi-Finals for the first time — a great achievement for our school and the players involved.

In the game against Cherwell, several players stood out with outstanding performances on both ends of the court. Jevania (MVP) and Emily, along with Eufrazia, showed great effort, confidence, and impact in both offence and defence. However, this was truly a team performance. Every player contributed with energy, teamwork, and determination, which led to an important and well-deserved win for the school.

This progress reflects the hard work, commitment, and positive attitude of the group throughout the season. We now look forward to the Semi-Finals with confidence and excitement.

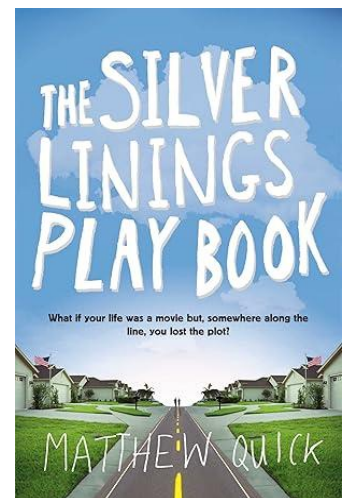


### Weekly Book Review by Lian

Perhaps one of my favourite authors as he often tackles vibrant almost searing emotion or circumstance in an incredibly raw yet complex way. There is very little wrong in how anyone handles something as everyone reacts or continues on in their own way. That at least is something I understood as one of the themes of the book. I actually read the sample of this book online and immediately afterwards it stayed on my mind until I actually binge read the entire thing in a single sitting. It's rather thought provoking and it also provides great introspection into how different a person's narrative can be to one's own.

I believe the novel was powerful as from the very start you have all sorts of questions brought up that simply keeps the reader there yearning for more and there's also something deeply in touch with reality that sometimes you can't understand wholly and person's motivations but you know enough that you feel the importance with the urgency behind their actions or demeanour.

I believe reading this book was one of the better choices I've made as it seriously gave me a certain pensiveness I haven't felt in a long while.



## GENERAL NOTICES

### Sixth Form Update | Ms McCabe

#### Think Human Festival

Last week, Mr Shaw and I took the whole of Year 12 to Oxford Brookes for workshops that were part of the Think Human Festival. This festival celebrated Humanities, the Arts and Social Sciences and what it means to be human. Our workshops were specifically aimed at Sixth Form students and were attended by many of the local city schools.



Half of the students attended a workshop led by Laura Coryton, an inspiring young activist whose campaign changed the law for women. Laura took the students through the steps needed to bring about change in their own schools, and lead with confidence and enthusiasm. I was so impressed how each group tackled the activities and worked together to come up with solutions. Dr Paule from Oxford Brookes University praised Greyfriars students for being the most engaged she had seen in the workshops.

The other half of our Year 12 went to the Body Swaps workshop. They had the chance to test VR headsets and work through a series of activities to develop presentation skills. Their main focus was to demonstrate active listening when having a (virtual) conversation with another person. This group also had a brilliant time and lots of fun, and for many of them, this was the first time they had had the opportunity to use a VR headset.

Despite the long walk there (and back), the students returned to school buzzing with ideas of what we want to put in place for next year. It was a really valuable opportunity.

#### Achievement Points

We are back with an Achievement Points League in Sixth Form. Well done to Earl and Nifemi who have the highest points so far in Y12 and in Year 13, Toby and Faizan. Also, well done to Dr Kay and his tutor group who have the highest number of points in Sixth Form overall.

#### Y13 Exams

An email went to all Y13 families and students to remind them that lessons are continuing. Whilst we know that students may be worrying about how close these exams are, teachers are going through vital key content reminders, addressing misconceptions and revising exam strategies. The Sixth Form team are always on hand to support students with any worries they might have about exams.

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Year 10 Students Explore Careers with the British Army in Aldershot | Miss Kenneford

Fourteen Year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to visit Aldershot, the home of the British Army, on Thursday this week for a hands-on and inspiring insight into military careers and life in the Army.

The day began with a series of engaging talks from serving personnel, who shared their personal journeys and highlighted the opportunities available within the Army. From travel and specialist training to leadership development and career progression, students gained a real sense of the diverse paths on offer.

Students then took part in a range of command tasks designed to challenge their teamwork, communication, leadership, and critical thinking skills. Working together under pressure, they demonstrated resilience and problem-solving abilities while tackling practical scenarios.

A key highlight of the visit was learning about the wide variety of roles within the Army. Students explored specialist equipment and vehicles, gaining insight into how different units operate and support one another. They also had the chance to safely experience an airsoft range, giving them a practical taste of training exercises.

To round off the day, students watched the finals of the Army Hockey Championships, witnessing high-level sport and teamwork in action.

The trip was a fantastic opportunity for students to broaden their understanding of potential career pathways while developing valuable life skills. It was an inspiring and memorable experience for all involved.



## GENERAL NOTICES

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

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all parents and carers who attended the Year 9 Parents' Evening. The event was a great success, and it was fantastic to see such strong engagement from our school community. Your attendance plays a vital role in supporting your child's progress, particularly at this important stage as they prepare for their transition into GCSE studies.

The conversations between parents, students, and teachers were incredibly valuable. They provided an opportunity to reflect on achievements so far, identify areas for development, and discuss the next steps needed to ensure every student reaches their full potential. These meaningful discussions help build a strong partnership between home and school, which is key to student success.

If you were unable to attend, we encourage you to contact your child's teachers via email to receive feedback and discuss their progress.

A huge shout out to Amna, Ayesha, Blossom, and Alexia for their fantastic help in setting up the hall and organising signage. We also thank Lushun, Senhalia, Sienna, Nefemi, David E, David (6th Form), and Constantine (Year 10) for kindly giving their time to support with refreshments.

**Save the Date:** Year 8 Parents' Evening will take place on **7 May**, from **4:00pm–7:00pm**. Please check your emails and book early via Arbor. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Students leading the way

Year 8	Year 9
Nolam	John
Taryn	Kevin
Gabriela	Lushun
Piti	Shekarau
Isaac	Luanna
Joshua	Alexia
Greidi	Ana Beatriz
Guardion	Luciano
Abi	Delight O
Emily V	Holy-Karen

### Soft Landing | Mrs Swanton

On Monday, students were weaving baskets and they produced some beautiful work. Well done everyone!



Tommy

Ludozio



Lexi



## GENERAL NOTICES

### Message for Year 7 | Mr Cunningham

**Greyfriars Catholic School** It has been another positive week in school, with students making the most of a range of exciting opportunities beyond the classroom. We are particularly pleased to see so many students getting involved in enrichment activities, including rugby with Oxford Harlequins RFC, which has been a fantastic chance to build teamwork, resilience, and confidence.

Alongside this, students have been enjoying visits and activities linked to local city farm enrichment, as well as developing valuable problem-solving skills through our coding sessions. These opportunities play an important role in broadening students' experiences and helping them discover new interests and talents.

We encourage all students to continue taking part in these activities and to make the most of everything school life has to offer.

Faaris	57		
Amelia-Grace	44		
Esther	42	7KR	556
Elia	39	7GKE	547
Iliam	35	7ALW	444
Abi	34	7BN	285
Jude	33		
Karthik	32		
Chloe	32		
Alton	32		

Congratulations to our top achievement point scorers this week, and well done to 7KR leading the form groups this week, just beating out 7GKE!



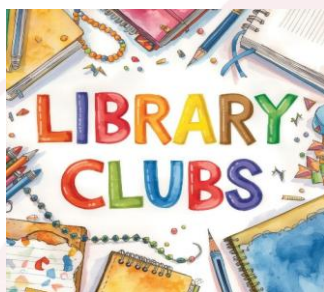
Year 10 students are invited to take part in a trip to the site of the Battle of Hastings, where they will explore the battlefield and develop their understanding of how and why the battle was fought in 1066. Students will also study the religious and cultural significance of Battle Abbey, built to commemorate 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

And just like that, we are done with week 2! We are still very much promoting AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH, but also encouraging ALL students to display their individuality and unique perspective by finishing our doodle. All the doodles will be on display from Monday and you can vote for your favourite until mid-May. There will be prizes for the winners, so come and add your interpretation to the list 😊.



We are re-thinking our library clubs, with Student Librarians having more independence and responsibility running them. At the moment, we are planning to run Blackout Poetry, Creative Writing, Art, Crochet, and possibly Beads Club, so come along if you're interested. Similarly, if there is something else you really want us to run in the library, come up and speak to me – I always welcome new ideas.

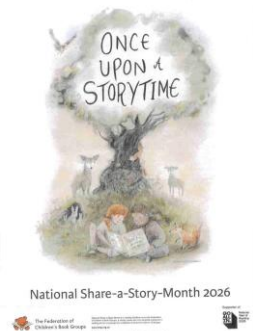
May is a National Share -a-Story Month, so get ready for activities and competitions that are all about reading, writing, and enjoying stories together!

We also now know, due to many successful submissions to Young Writers' Competitions, that we have many very talented writers among us! That's why, I will keep encouraging you all to give it a go! Read, write, and enjoy the stories you absorb, and create.

Here are a couple of competitions that might catch your eye (and, as usual, there will be plenty of achievement points for every submission, on top of the possible prizes). **Come to the library for more details.**

#### The OxIA Short Story Collection 2026

OxIA (Oxford Independent Authors) is organising Wolvercote Literary Festival 2026 on Sunday June 28th, as part of the 2026 Wolvercote and Wytham Mid-Summer Festival. Here they are launching the OxIA Short Story Collection, open to local writers of all ages who would like to see their work in print. Short stories will be collected and published on-line, on the OxIA web site, around each of OxIA's local literary festivals.



Finally, the Reading Championship update.

Enjoy the sunny weekend, everyone (hopefully with a good book in hand! 😊).

TERM 4   WEEK 4				
	Reading Champ		Tutor Group Reading Championship	
1	Roisin	14	8BMO	68%
2	Ludozio, Daniel, Esther O.	5	8RM	30.4%
3	Martyna	4	7ALW	22.7%
4	Elena, Ayesha J.	3	7BN	20%
5	Many	2	8LSC	15.6%

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Message for KS4 | Mr Weedon

**Year 10** | As we continue through a busy and important term, we would like to share a few key updates regarding our Year 10 students.

Preparations for the upcoming PPE (Pre-Public Examinations) are well underway. Students have been working hard in lessons and we encourage continued revision at home to help build confidence and ensure they are fully prepared. This is an important stage in their journey as they begin transitioning towards the expectations of the next academic year.

We are also looking ahead to the transition into Year 11, and it has been encouraging to see many students already demonstrating increased focus, maturity, and commitment to their studies.

Form	Achievement Points
10MJ	232
10SA	197
10CT	169
10JOD	146

**Year 11** | Our Year 11 students continue to work extremely hard as they prepare for their upcoming examinations. This is a crucial period, and it has been encouraging to see their focus, determination, and commitment to their studies. We encourage you to continue supporting them at home by helping to maintain good routines and a balanced approach to revision.

Letters regarding the upcoming Celebration Evening, along with other key dates for the remainder of the academic year, have now been sent out. Please take a moment to check your emails to ensure you are up to date with all important information and deadlines. Thank you for your ongoing support during this important time.

Form	Achievement Points
11JM	62
11JS	54
11RHO	39

**Attendance Update – Years 10 & 11** | Attendance remains a key priority, particularly at this important stage of the academic year. For our Year 11 students, being in school every day is vital. As they approach their final examinations, this is a crucial time to gain as much support, guidance, and knowledge as possible from their teachers. Every lesson counts in helping to build confidence and secure the best possible outcomes.

Similarly, strong attendance in Year 10 is essential. Students are laying the foundations for their GCSE courses, and consistent presence in lessons ensures they can fully engage with new content and develop the skills needed for success as they move into Year 11.

We appreciate your continued support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and punctually.

## 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

- 04 May | Bank Holiday
- 07 May | Year 8 Parent Consultation Meeting
- 11 May | External Exams Begin
- 13 – 15 May | Year 9 Careers in Focus Workshops / Trip
- 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
- 25 – 29 May Half Term

### 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



Hi there!

Welcome to **Parent Pathways** – your guide to supporting your child’s journey to university (years 10-13).

Choosing a university can feel overwhelming, for parents as much as students. With so many courses, deadlines, and decisions, it’s hard to know:

- where to start
- what really matters
- how best to support your child

That’s exactly why we created **Parent Pathways**.

Produced by the teams behind **Whatuni** and **The Complete University Guide**, this free termly newsletter gives you **clear, trusted guidance** at every stage, from early research through to results day.

**Win travel + accommodation for a university open day!!**

We know visiting universities can be expensive, but it can be one of the most important parts of making the right choice.

**Sign up to Parent Pathways and be entered into a draw to win travel and accommodation costs for you and your child to attend an open day.**

[Competition Terms and Conditions](#)

### Key dates and deadlines

**Replying to offers:** There are three key dates for replying to university offers:

- **31 March** – All university decisions received → reply by 6 May.
- **13 May** – All offers received → reply by 3 June.
- **15 July** – All offers received → reply by 22 July (*Excludes UCAS Extra applicants*).

**Other key dates and deadlines**

- **30 June** – Deadline for applications to be sent to universities (6pm)
- **2nd July** - **Clearing** opens

👉 Learn more about [how to reply to offers](#).

👉 [See UCAS key dates and deadlines](#)

💡 Add these to a shared family calendar to avoid last-minute stress.

### Help your child choose with confidence

Parents play a crucial role in helping students think beyond just grades or rankings. Here are the tools thousands of families use:

- **Real student reviews** – explore honest feedback with Whatuni Student Choice Awards (WUSCAs).

👉 [Read reviews now](#)

- **Trusted League Tables** - compare universities across 74 subject areas, student satisfaction, graduate outcomes and more by using trusted, independent data.

👉 [Check out our league tables](#)

- **Cost of Living Calculator** – Understand what student life really costs in different cities.

👉 [Try our budgeting tool now](#)

💡 Many families use our cost of living calculator together to compare options and avoid unwanted surprises later on.

- **Virtual open day tours** - can't visit in person? Explore from home.

👉 [Start a virtual tour now](#)

### Enjoyed this issue?

**Stay informed (and don't miss future opportunities)**

**Subscribe here:** [Sign up to Parent Pathways](#) (You'll also be entered into the open day prize draw)

**Help another parent:** If you found this helpful, forward it to another parent and help us build a community supporting students together. Many families are navigating this for the first time.

**Keep your child in the know** encourage your child to register on the links below to receive helpful newsletters with student-focused guidance:

- [Register on the Complete University Guide](#)
- [Register on Whatuni](#)

With best wishes,

Corinna and the team at **Parent Pathways**

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>

**DONNINGTON DOORSTEP**  
**NEW SOCIAL HUB**  
**@ DOORSTEP**

**GAMES, ACTIVITIES, MUSIC, FOOD**

**YEAR 7 TO 11**

**TUES 5.15PM - 7.30PM**  
**WED 3.30PM - 7.30PM**

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FOR WHEN WE RE-OPEN END OF **MARCH 2026**

**DONNINGTON DOORSTEP**

**DONNINGTON DOORSTEP, TOWNSEND SQUARE, OX4 4BB**  
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1144821

**INFO@DONNINGTON-DOORSTEP.ORG.UK**

# 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 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](http://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](mailto:donna@oxfordhub.org)

**Oxford Hub**

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

## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



**FMRIB-WIN**  
University of Oxford,  
John Radcliffe Hospital  
Oxford, OX3 9DU

**Primary researcher:**  
Izabelle Lovgren (DPhil Student)  
[izabelle.lovgren@ndcn.ox.ac.uk](mailto:izabelle.lovgren@ndcn.ox.ac.uk)

**Principal Investigator:**  
Mr Tim Lawrence  
[Tim.Lawrence@ndcn.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Tim.Lawrence@ndcn.ox.ac.uk)

### Imaging Study of 11 to 18 Year olds with Head Injuries *Ethics Approval Reference: 24/SC/0155*



#### 11-18 Year Olds needed!

We are looking for healthy volunteers to take part in our study!

#### What is the purpose of the study?

Head injuries are common in young people. While most recover well afterwards, some feel worse than expected. Currently, we don't know why this happens. This study could help us predict how well someone will recover after a head injury.

#### What does the study involve?

We will ask you to attend 2 visits at the FMRIB centre in John Radcliffe Hospital. The visits will take place 6 months apart, and will each last around 2.5 hours.

Both visits will involve:

- A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) brain scan
- Questionnaires
- Short tasks
- Height & weight measurements
- Optional: electroencephalography (EEG) measure



#### Who can take part?

- We are looking for young people who:
- ✓ are 11 to 18 years old
  - ✓ are fit and healthy
  - ✓ and take part in sports



- Unfortunately, you will not be able to take part if any of the following apply:
- Currently recovering from a head injury
  - Ever diagnosed with a neurological or psychiatric condition
  - Unsafe to be around a strong magnet
  - Previous head surgery

If you would like to find out more, please contact  
[Izabelle.Lovgren@ndcn.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Izabelle.Lovgren@ndcn.ox.ac.uk) / 01865 610 471

Healthy Control Poster  
Longitudinal MRI Study of 11-18 Year Olds with Traumatic Brain Injury  
CI: Mr Tim Lawrence

Version/Date: v1.1, 04 Feb 2025  
IRAS Project number: 336967  
REC Reference number: 24/SC/0155

**WELCOME TO OBBCA**

**COME AND TRY CHEERLEADING!**

SIGN UP FOR JUNE CLASSES TO GET  
**YOUR TRAIL FOR FREE!**

**TRIALS - SATURDAY JUNE 27TH 2026**  
**BROOKES SPORT, CHENEY LANE**

**FIND OUR SIGN UP FORM AND CLASSES ON THE QR CODE BELOW!**

OBBCA  
BROOKES Sport

# 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/6jMhPHALRE>

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**

# Calling all K-POP DEMON HUNTERS!

SING DANCE EAT LEARN

Families Welcome  
Come Together!

See more details and register on <http://bit.ly/2062626> or scan the QR code!

Live K-pop music & dance performance and sing along to hits such as Golden, Sochi Pops, NPT (DISE), Idol (DTS)

K-pop emoji-making workshop  
Learn simple Korean phrases  
Enjoy delicious K-food

25th Apr 2026  
12:00 PM

The Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities  
Radcliffe Observatory Quarter  
Oxford OX2 0GG

# LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**EASTER & SUMMER 2026**

**The WOW Camp**

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

**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
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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](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 204610 (England and Wales). Registered address: The Scout Association, 21 West Park, Dorking, Surrey, England GU14 7JN.

## 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

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

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

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

**PLUS ROCK CLIMBING (PREBOOK ONLY)**

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

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**

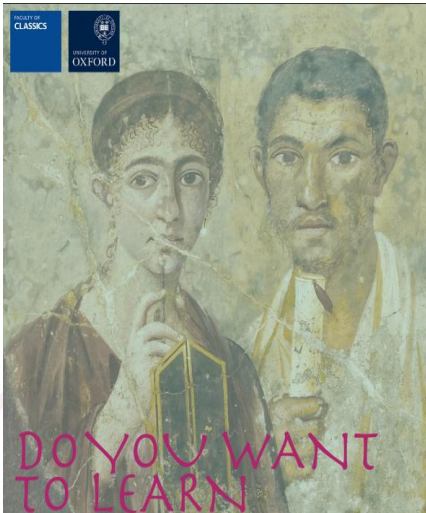
[enquiries@connectionsupport.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@connectionsupport.org.uk)  
01865 711267  
[connectionsupport.org.uk](http://connectionsupport.org.uk)

Drop-in details:

Visit our website to download the referral form

**Connection Support**

## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

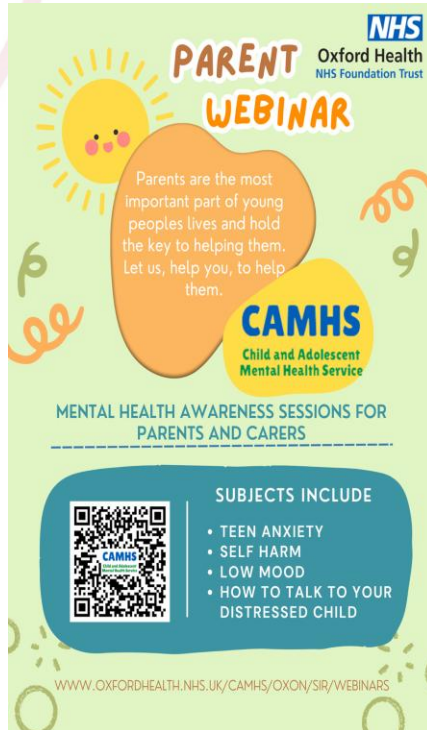


**DO YOU WANT TO LEARN LATIN?**

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** 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

**FACE** May 2026 Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long  
**£24 each or FREE with School Membership**  
Book online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)  
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>



**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




**FREE PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM POP-UP SHOP** Oxford Hub

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:

YOU MOVE