

Weekly Newsletter

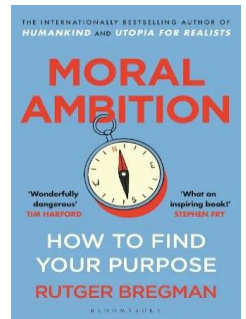
Friday 1st May 2026 | Issue 26

Dear Families

It is May Day today, and what a glorious reminder it is of the beauty of the world around us. At a time when creation feels at its most vibrant, it offers us a natural moment to reflect on our focus this term: Stewardship of God's Creation. When the world is so spectacular, we are reminded not only to enjoy it, but to care for it, and for one another, with gratitude and responsibility.

This week, in our Gospel reflections, we have considered Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In our Monday Assembly, we explored what this means for us: who we listen to, how we discern the right path, and what it means to follow with purpose and trust. The image of the shepherd reminds us that guidance matters and that we must choose carefully the voices we allow to shape our thinking and our actions.

Alongside this, I have taken great pleasure this week in speaking to students about *Moral Ambition* and sharing reading recommendations in assembly. There is something quite stark in the reality that, as a society, we are reading less and spending more time online. Recent reflections from Pope Leo XIV have also highlighted the risks that increased time online, and the rapid growth of AI, can pose to human interaction, reflection and discernment. His message is clear: we must remain rooted in what makes us human: deep thinking, meaningful relationships, and a sense of moral purpose.



Reading plays a crucial role in this. It stretches our thinking, deepens our empathy and helps us to become better people. The ideas within *Moral Ambition*, about using our talents in the service of others, are powerful, and it has been wonderful to see students engaging with these ideas so thoughtfully.

It has also been a pleasure to welcome several visitors into school this week. Without fail, they comment on the warmth of our community and how polite our students are: Greyfriars polite of course! This is something we should never take for granted; it speaks volumes about who our students are and the culture we are building together whether they are in Y7 or Y13, they are fully invested in our community.

In these visits, I was also struck by the wonderful work in the library with Mrs Brett, her team of student librarians and the culture of joy are phenomenal. Across the school, break and lunchtime have been full of laughter, conversation and a whole range of ball games (handball is a big Greyfriars hit!). In a world where attention is so often drawn to the negative, it is worth pausing to recognise what we see every day at Greyfriars: good, wholesome childhood; students enjoying one another's company, learning, growing and flourishing together.

I hope you are able to enjoy the sunshine this weekend and take a moment to appreciate the beauty around you. The Bank Holiday Monday is also a welcome extra day too.

Lyndsey Caldwell
Headteacher

WHAT IS GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ME THIS WEEK?

Gospel | John 10:1-10 The Good Shepherd and His Sheep



1 "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand

what he was telling them. 7 Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Reflection

In John 10:1-10, Jesus declares himself the "good shepherd" and the "gate for the sheep," contrasting his care with thieves who come to steal, kill, and destroy. He emphasises that his sheep know his voice and follow him, promising salvation and abundant life to those who enter through him.



Prayer for the month of May

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary,
Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

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

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

GENERAL NOTICES

Meadow School Enrichment | Miss Crowther

Our Year 7 students enjoyed their third enrichment session this week, this time a visit to the horse fields. We began with a gentle walk along the footpath by Florence Park, pausing occasionally to listen to the different sounds of nature (and also the shouting from the playground!).

As we continued, we arrived at an open field where students were given a plant identification sheet. With great enthusiasm, they began spotting and naming different plants along the route. This activity sparked curiosity and discussion, as students worked together to identify species and appreciate the variety of life growing around them.

When we reached the ancient horse fields, the experience became almost meditative. Students sat together looking at an opening into the lush meadow (which is sadly under threat from housing development). They were asked to draw their vision of what the meadow could become in the future.

This links to the core purpose of our enrichment project: to imagine a “meadow school,” a natural learning environment that preserves the land rather than allowing it to be developed for housing. The students produced thoughtful and imaginative work, showing a clear appreciation for the beauty and importance of the space. One standout piece came from Nicolas, who wrote a poem about the fields:

*Luscious grass
With a past.
Little deer
And a drop so sheer.
Flowers open,
But where they come from
Is a mystery.*

*Bushes ahead
That lay like a bed.
Tall
Tall trees
That nobody sees.*

*And light.
Gaze at the stars
That lay ahead.
Bask at the pond.
Why change nature,
When it can change you?*



Nicolas’ poem beautifully captures both the wonder of the meadow and the deeper message at the heart of our project. It reflects the growing awareness among students that nature is not only something to enjoy, but something to protect.

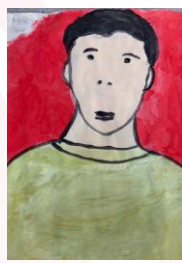
This third session highlighted how our Year 7 students are developing a deeper connection with the natural world: learning not just about it, but from it. We look forward to seeing how their ideas continue to grow in the sessions ahead!

GENERAL NOTICES

Year 7 Art | Mrs Byrne



Year 7 pupils have been busy creating painted portraits inspired by the work of Julian Opie. As part of this project, they have been developing their understanding of the colour wheel, exploring harmonious and complementary colours. Using these techniques, the Y7s have painted a range of striking portraits inspired by their own heroes. It has been fantastic to see their creativity and growing confidence with colour.



I look forward to sharing more of their impressive work.

GENERAL NOTICES

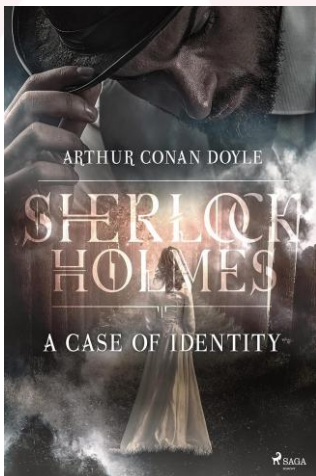
Congratulations!

A huge well done to our Y7 student and the Marston Saints who finished third in the ESF2026 Youth Football Festival at the weekend.



To top it off, the team was presented with their medals by Paul Merson and Faye White, both Arsenal and England legends!

Weekly Book Review by Lian



I'm not quite sure if this is one of the more famous cases in the Sherlock Holmes series but it's certainly a little more widely known! I found this case in particular to be rather fascinating due to all of the twists and turns featured. You can find yourself certainly mystified along with Watson until near to the end when hints finally start to link together. The entire case is somewhat outlandish and the ending may not be the most satisfying considering the lack of on-screen (or should I say in-page) consequence but I believe it stays true to the characters with the choices and insights they made.

I've read, watched and heard different adaptations of this case and honestly knowing how many directions it's taken simply just seems to spruce up the source material even more! It's always an intriguing case to come back to!

Soft Landing | Mrs Swanton



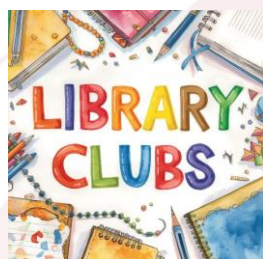
This week Lexi, Tommy, Ludozio and Mario designed artwork based on their first initial – great work everyone!



GENERAL NOTICES

Library News | Miss Brett

Hello, Fellow Readers! What a beautiful week we've had. Let me start with some brilliant news. Lian, yes THAT Lian – our **Book Reviewer Extraordinaire**, and a now **PUBLISHED AUTHOR** herself is also getting her wonderful poem published! Aren't we lucky to have such a talented student in our school?! Mind you, we have many very talented students in our school, so come along to the library and show us what you've got 😊.



We are still looking for inspiration, planning for new Library Clubs. They can be before, after school, or during lunch break. If there's anything you are particularly fond of doing – pop up and speak to me! My Librarians and I want to hear about any activities, art, games, crafts, study clubs – but, naturally, if it involves reading or writing, my heart will sing with joy.

As we are strolling into the National Share -a-Story Month, I have writing competitions for you to enter – they are very exciting – come and see for yourselves! There are, of course, achievement points to be earned for entering, but there are also fantastic prizes to be won! You can also browse through our Creative Writing guides if you need inspiration.

Finally, I am starting my Be Brilliant initiative. There are many ways in which we can be brilliant, of course. But the one that warms my heart the most is... yes, you guessed it: **READING**. I want YOU to show me that you are a brilliant reader and you can earn achievement points and some prizes, from stickers, badges, bookmarks, books, or sweets.

There are many ways in which you can demonstrate your reading brilliance, e.g. borrow a book, read it, and come to tell me all about it; read to someone else, read to ME 😊, encourage your friends to borrow books and read them, recommend books you love to your friends, **SPREAD THE JOY OF READING** and tell me about it (or write about it). I am really hoping to be able to give away many, many points and prizes.

Speaking of Brilliant Readers...

| TERM 4 WEEK 4 Reading Champions | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----|-------------|-------|
| | Individual | | Tutor Group | |
| 1 | Roisin | 16 | 8BMO | 71.4% |
| 2 | Ludozio, Sahas | 8 | 8RM | 70.8% |
| 3 | Martyna, Daniel, Esther O. | 5 | 8LSC | 38.7% |
| 4 | Elena, Ayesha J., Gaudencio | 4 | 7ALW | 27.3% |
| 5 | Erin, Jerin, Hajera | 3 | 7BN | 23.1% |

To send you into the glorious weekend with a smile on your faces, here is a silly librarian joke.
What do librarians use to fish?.....*Bookworms!*
Happy reading, everyone!

GENERAL NOTICES

Message for Year 8 and Year 9 | Mrs Reddy

As the weather warms up, it's important to take care of yourself so you can stay focused and perform at your best. Please remember to bring extra water to stay hydrated throughout the day, especially in hotter conditions. Getting a good night's sleep is just as important, helping you remain alert and engaged in your lessons. Keeping on top of homework also plays a key role, supporting revision and building confidence ahead of end-of-year assessments.

Uniform and attendance expectations remain consistent throughout the year. Regular attendance is essential for all student; being in school and fully participating in lessons makes a significant difference. For Year 9 students preparing to transition to GCSEs later this term, consistent attendance is particularly important as it helps with planning and adapting to new content. Similarly, Year 8 students benefit greatly from being in school every day, allowing them to engage fully with their learning and develop the skills needed for a successful move into Year 9.

Students leading the way

| Year 8 | Year 9 |
|-----------|----------|
| Crystal | Tyler |
| Ronnie | Jason |
| Gabriella | Eleesha |
| Kristian | Sahas |
| Ephraim | Omer |
| Grant | Delight |
| Isayah | John |
| Sabella | Tatiana |
| Sky | Leyna |
| Isaac | Da Vinci |

Save the date Year 8 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday, **7 May, from 4-7pm** in the main hall. Parents who have not yet booked appointments are encouraged to do so via Arbor using a web browser if you experience issues with the app. Reminder emails were sent on 28 April.



We are delighted to celebrate our Year 9 student, who was appointed Head Cadet on 16 April. This is a role of significant responsibility, supporting the VPCL with the running of cadet sessions and mentoring fellow students at just 14 years old. We are incredibly proud of you!

Congratulations to all students with 100% attendance.

Thank you to the tutors for their ongoing support.

Keep on striving to be a better version of yourself.

Have a lovely weekend!

GENERAL NOTICES

Message for Year 7 | Mr Cunningham

It has been a very positive week in school, and we have been particularly impressed with how hard students have been working to embed strong routines. From arriving promptly to lessons to being well-prepared and focused, these small habits are making a big difference to learning across the year group.

A special congratulations goes to 7GK, who have shown real drive and commitment in improving their attendance. This effort has not gone unnoticed, and they should be very proud of the progress they are making as a form group.

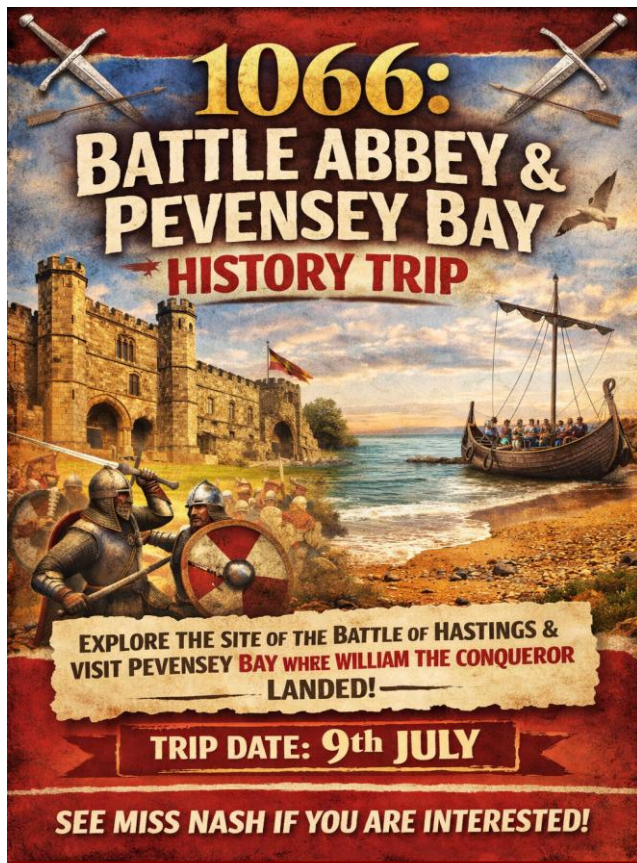
As the weather continues to get warmer, a reminder that blazers remain a required part of the school uniform. We also encourage all students to bring a water bottle each day to stay hydrated and ready to learn.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Faaris | 48 |
| Alton | 41 |
| Karthik | 39 |
| Chloe | 37 |
| Elia | 35 |
| Luis | 33 |
| Esther | 33 |
| Imiyah | 31 |
| Sadew | 30 |
| Amelia-Grace | 30 |

Congratulations to 7KR leading the achievement point table for the second week in a row, and well done to our top achievement point scorers this week!

| | |
|------|-----|
| 7KR | 571 |
| 7GKE | 349 |
| 7ALW | 314 |
| 7BN | 288 |



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

Message for KS4 | Mr Weedon

Year 11

Good luck with your Year 11 exams — you've got this. Stay focused, manage your time, and don't forget to take breaks when you need them. All the hard work you've put in will pay off. Believe in yourself and do your best.

Please ensure that your child is prepared and has all equipment during the upcoming exams, starting next Tuesday. We will be revising and offering some after school sessions for students prior to the exams. Please utilise this time and ensure your child is in school as much as possible.

Year 10

As we move from Year 10 into Year 11, we begin an important new chapter. The past year is coming to a close, bringing with it growth, challenges, and achievements. Now, as we step into our final year, we take on greater responsibility; not only for our own success, but as role models for the younger students.

As the new senior year group, we have the opportunity to set the standard, to lead by example, and to show the very best of what we stand for here at Greyfriars. Let's approach this year with determination, pride, and a commitment to making it one to remember.

| Form | Achievement Points |
|-------|--------------------|
| 10SA | 440 |
| 10MJ | 285 |
| 10JOD | 187 |
| 10CT | 183 |

| Form | Achievement Points |
|-------|--------------------|
| 11RHO | 114 |
| 11JM | 62 |
| 11JS | 55 |

Have a great bank holiday weekend, be safe!

Sparx Maths **WEEK 27**

Total hours spent on Sparx this year

9,396hrs

Number of questions answered correctly

704,558

XP Champions THIS YEAR | 20/03/26

| Name | Year | Total XP |
|------------|------|----------|
| Miu Miu M | 8 | 50,451 |
| Seerat S | 7 | 48,640 |
| Sampson O | 8 | 42,570 |
| Nita C | 11 | 38,953 |
| Russell R | 11 | 35,435 |
| Aseda K | 7 | 34,329 |
| Samayrah K | 10 | 34,212 |
| Rayan P | 7 | 33,800 |
| Aman A | 9 | 33,744 |
| Nora C | 11 | 33,545 |

XP Champions for LAST WEEK

| Name | Year | XP POINTS |
|------------|------|-----------|
| Kanchan L | 12 | 4,181 |
| Hajera S | 12 | 3,181 |
| Kryspen B | 11 | 4,675 |
| Saidal S | 11 | 2,545 |
| Samayrah K | 10 | 3,240 |
| Caitlin T | 10 | 3,009 |
| Muhammed N | 9 | 6,571 |
| Aman A | 9 | 3,288 |
| Abdullah A | 8 | 5,488 |
| Miu Miu M | 8 | 4,157 |
| Seerat S | 7 | 3,175 |

GENERAL NOTICES

Sixth Form News | Ms McCabe

Y13 Yearbook

Students have been busy getting their photos done for the Yearbook. Mr Shaw has been putting this together as a wonderful memento and something they will be able to look back on and treasure for years to come. A huge thanks to students who have contributed to this and, of course, to Mr Shaw.

Y12 House Assemblies

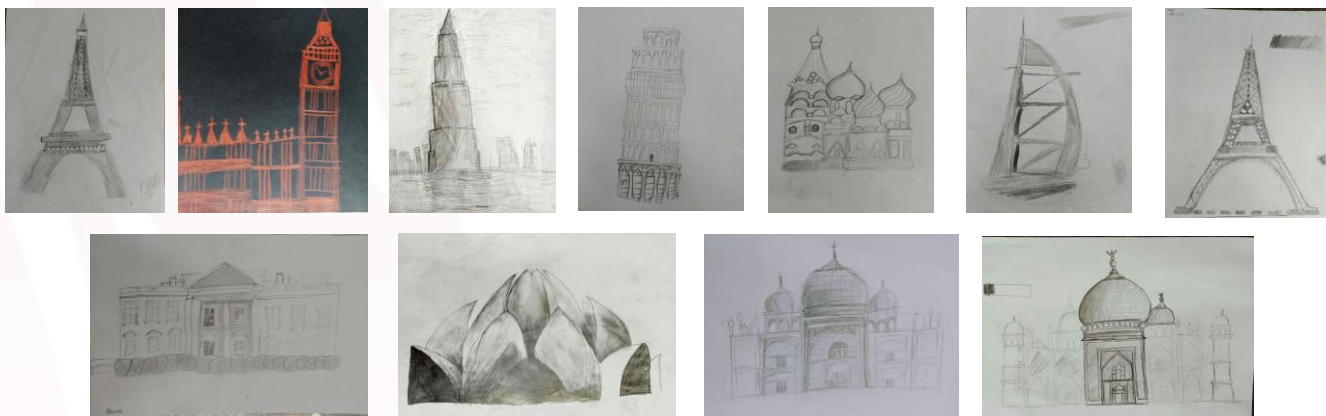
Students will be preparing to deliver House Assemblies on the week beginning 11th May. This is such an important part of Sixth Form and teaches students many things: from responsibility to project management, and problem solving to confidence. Now that our Y13 are immersed in exams and revision, the Y12 are leading this and we are excited about the energy and enthusiasm they bring!

Oxford Neuroscience

We have secured a place on the Oxford Neuroscience Programme for Y12 students run by Oxford University. This is a fantastic course and gives students an incredible insight into research and study on the human brain and how this links with Biology, medicine and psychology. Well done to Bailie for putting herself forward for this programme.

Year 8 Art | Mrs Byrne

Year 8 pupils have recently been developing their skills in tonal drawing, exploring techniques inspired by famous buildings around the world. Students will study the work of contemporary artist Chesim alongside the Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser, known for his vibrant colours, flowing lines, and imaginative designs. Inspired by these artists, pupils will experiment with creating colourful line drawings and explore monoprinting techniques to produce expressive, layered outcomes. I am looking forward to sharing this work later in the summer 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.

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

School Lunch Accounts

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

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



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

Astroturf

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

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

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

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

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



GENERAL NOTICES

Friends of Greyfriars (PTA)

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

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

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

5 Ways to Well-being

Click on the logo to find out more.



Building small actions into your daily life can make you feel good, and feeling good is an important part of being healthy. There are 5 ways to wellbeing that are proven to make a real difference to you.

free period products



In partnership with **hey girls...**

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Free School Meals

Are you entitled?

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

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

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

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

GENERAL NOTICES

Dates for your Diary

- 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
<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

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

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

FUN AND SOCIAL FOOTBALL FREE TO ATTEND.

Contact Us plkicks@oufc.co.uk

Premier League Kicks OXFORD UNITED

Oxford Quins RFC

Rugby Club

GREYFRIARS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

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

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

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

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

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

GREG FISILAU

ENGLAND SIX NATIONS CALL-UP

Bring your Boots!

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

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

Registered Charity Number 1051962

COMMUNITY LARDER SOFEA

Parent Power

We support local parents living in the OX4 area

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

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

Need help? Want to get involved?

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

Oxford Hub

oxfordhub.org/parent-power

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



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

Primary researcher:
Isabelle Lovgren (DPhil Student)
isabelle.lovgren@ndcn.ox.ac.uk

Principal Investigator:
Mr Tim Lawrence
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
isabelle.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 OBCA
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!

OBCA
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

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

ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS
the next generation

2210 (Cowley) Sqn
Sandy Lane West, OX4 6LD
www.aircadets.tv/2210 Come join us on 20th of April at 8 pm! RSVP: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/6jMhPHALRE>

For more information about joining the Air Cadets call:

0345 600 6601

or go to www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets

Make new friends
Have fun
Earn BTECs

100 YEARS 1926-2026
UNIVERSITY OF READING

CENTRE for AUTISM WELLBEING HUB

Autistic Thriving at School and Beyond

As part of the University's centenary celebrations, we are hosting a free public hybrid (in person and online) event on the evening of 6 May on the theme of Autistic Thriving at School and Beyond.

Join us for an evening that brings together autistic children and young people, their families, students, professionals and researchers to explore what supports autistic children to flourish in education and everyday life.

The event will include talks from:

- Professor Elizabeth McCrum, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education and Student Experience) at the University of Reading
- Dr Fiona Knott and Dr Jo Billington, Wellbeing Hub project leads
- Andy Smith, founder of Spectrum Gaming, and a passionate advocate for young people's voices in education.

For in person attendees, there will also be an opportunity to review a poster presentation of current autism research from academics and students in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences. Refreshments will be provided.

Wednesday 6 May
G10 lecture theatre, Palmer Building, Whiteknights Campus, RG6 6EW

In person:
18:45 - 21:00

Online:
19:00 - 20:30 via Microsoft Teams

For more details and to book your place, please visit our website research.reading.ac.uk/autism/, or scan the QR code

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

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 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

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

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

What's on offer:

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

When is it:

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

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

Book now and join the adventure!

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

Scout Adventures is owned and operated by The Scout Association. Reg Charity Number 204610 (England and Wales). Registered address: The Scout Association, 21 Wellington Park, Dorking, Surrey, England GU24 0NF.

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

Are you at risk of losing your home?

We can help you to avoid eviction

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

Get in touch

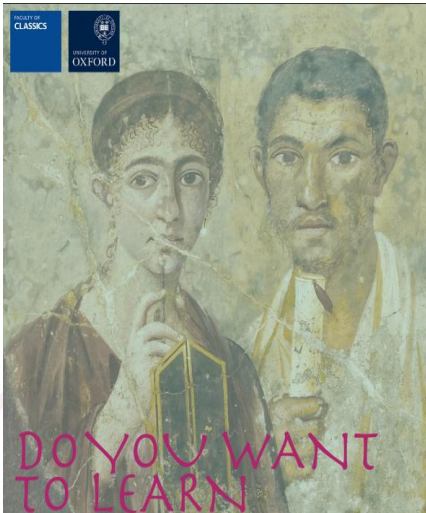
enquiries@connectionsupport.org.uk
01865 711267
connectionsupport.org.uk

Drop-in details:

Visit our website to download the referral form

Connection Support

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

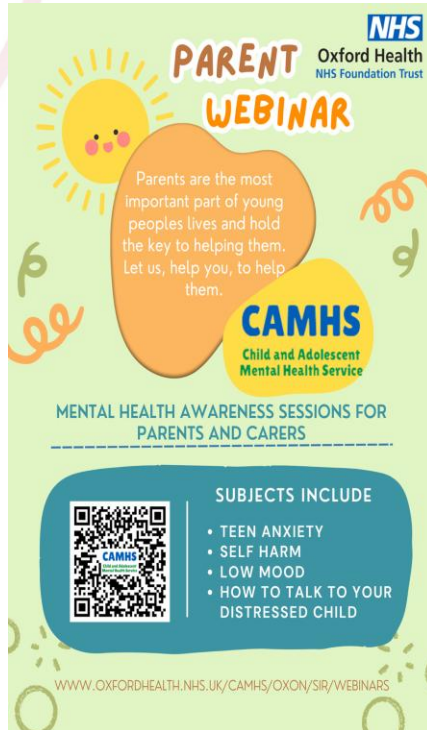


DO YOU WANT TO LEARN LATIN?

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
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 |
| FREE Getting a Good Nights Sleep | 28 May 7-8pm |



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 12th 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