

# Weekly Newsletter

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026 | Issue 29

Dear Families

This week we began with a beautiful Gospel in which Jesus prays for his disciples and for us. In our assemblies, we reflected on the extraordinary idea that we are held in prayer, loved, and called into relationship with one another. As we also looked ahead to Pentecost, we considered the courage and purpose the disciples received through the Holy Spirit: a reminder that faith is not something hidden away, but something lived boldly and joyfully in the world.

Our Catholic Social Teaching focus this term has been Stewardship of God's Creation. Thinking of ourselves as stewards is important because it reminds us that we do not simply pass through the world, we leave something behind. Through our actions and the way we care for the spaces around us, we shape the lives of others and the future of our communities.

This morning, our Catholic Life Ambassadors took part in a wonderful Stewardship Walk, reflecting on the beauty of creation through The Canticle of the Sun by St Francis of Assisi. This famous prayer praises God through 'Brother Sun', 'Sister Moon' and all of creation, reminding us that the world is not simply something we use, but something sacred that we belong to and must care for. It was this vision that inspired Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* his call for us to care for our common home and to recognise the deep connection between care for the environment, and care for one another. In a busy world, taking time simply to notice creation, to walk together, and to give thanks felt deeply important. That's what students did this morning in the beautifully glorious sunshine. It was fitting.

We have also had some wonderful opportunities for our students this week. Students sang beautifully in the Bach Choir at the University Church, and we were delighted to welcome Paterson Joseph, who shared his book and spoke to Key Stage 3 students about storytelling, creativity and imagination. Our Year 7 students also attended a STEM Conference, where they were inspired by robotics, innovation and the exciting possibilities of future careers, alongside useful discussions about apprenticeships and pathways beyond school. It was noisy in the hall for a full three hours, but was joyful.



We were also delighted to return to our partnership with The Nasio Trust, a partnership that has become a very important part of the life of Greyfriars. Through this work, our students are challenged to think globally and to recognise the dignity and humanity shared across communities and cultures. Here is a short video reflecting on the experiences of our students during their recent visit to Kenya. [Nasio Trust Video](#) The video captures not only the practical work they undertook, supporting medical centres, helping build homes, and working alongside local communities, but also the profound

personal impact the experience had on them. It is a powerful reflection on service and the joy that comes from meaningful human connection. We are incredibly proud of the maturity, and courage of our students (and their parents!) showed throughout the trip, and grateful to The Nasio Trust for helping create such transformative opportunities.

As we come to the end of term, I want to say how incredibly proud I am of our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Throughout the examination period they have shown immense ambition, resilience and maturity. The determination they have displayed has been remarkable, and we continue to keep them in our prayers as they move into the second half of this important chapter of their journey.

Also starting new chapters, this week we also say farewell to some much-loved members of staff. Mr Shaw, Deputy Head of Sixth Form, and Mrs Surtees, our SENCO, are moving on to exciting new adventures. We are deeply grateful for all they have contributed to Greyfriars and wish them every success and happiness in the future. Lunch time today is testament to the love of the children, both with little leaving parties and festivities.

We also say goodbye to Mrs White, our Attendance Officer, who leaves after more than twenty years of dedicated service to the school. Mrs White has been truly heroic in her commitment to the students and families in our community. She has supported generations of young people with kindness, persistence and care, and she will be greatly missed. We know, however, that she will remain a treasured friend of the school and keep in touch.

As the term draws to a close, I wish all of our families joy, rest and sunshine over the holiday. 'Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Brother Sun.'

Lyndsey Caldwell

P.S. <https://thankateacher.co.uk/schools/> You can send a card to say thank you to a teacher or member of staff.

## National Thank a Teacher Day

Get Ready for National Thank a Teacher Day on 17th June



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

### Gospel | Matthew 28:16-20 The Great Commission



16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

#### Reflection

Matthew 28:16-20, widely known as the Great Commission, is the final passage in the Gospel of Matthew. In it, the resurrected Jesus meets his disciples on a mountain in Galilee, declares his ultimate authority, and commands them to spread his teachings globally, assuring them of his constant presence.

#### Prayer - The Canticle of Creatures by St. Francis of Assisi

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord, Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honour, and all blessing, To You alone, Most High, do they belong, and no human is worthy to mention Your name. Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, Who is the day and through whom You give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour; and bears a likeness of You, Most High One. Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful. Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather, through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures. Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste. Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night, and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong. Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs. 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 continued our rosary services in the Chapel. Students led one another in this special type of prayer in the Catholic Church, asking for the intercessions of Our Lady. We do this in May because it is Mary's month.



We also enjoyed a Care for Creation Prayer Walk, put on by our Year 7 Catholic Life Ambassadors. They've worked hard this term learning about stewardship, and how they can lead others at our school to care for God's creation. Students made artwork and prayer stations based on the 7 days of Creation, and invited their peers to pray and reflect on how they can be better stewards. Please continue to pray for care for our world!

### Year 8 Connect with a "Human Library" - Mr Dunne

On Tuesday morning, our Year 8 students took part in a vibrant and fast-paced Human Library event, designed to broaden their horizons and challenge assumptions about the world of work.

Operating like a career-focused version of speed networking, the event brought community volunteers into school to act as "human books." Students sat in small groups and rotated around the tables, spending a high-energy 4 to 5 minutes with each guest to learn about their professions.

To kick start the conversations, each volunteer brought in a single object linked to their line of work—ranging from specialised tools and technical equipment to symbolic items. Our Year 8s had to use their deductive reasoning to guess the career based on the object alone!

Once the mystery was solved, students interviewed the volunteers, asking brilliant questions about what a typical day looks like in their role, the different entry routes, skills, and qualifications required and the unexpected experiences that shaped their career journeys.

A huge thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who gave up their time to inspire the next generation. The enthusiasm in the room was brilliant, and our Year 8s left with a much clearer picture of the exciting, diverse futures available to them.

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Year 9 Step into the World of Work at Bicester Village - Mr Dunne

On Friday 15th May, our Year 9 students traded the classroom for the bustling avenues of Bicester Village for an immersive business and careers insight day. The trip gave students a brilliant behind-the-scenes look at the variety of career paths that drive a world-famous retail and business hub.

The day featured sessions with guest speakers, including legal professionals who broke down the different pathways into the industry. Students learned that traditional university degrees aren't the only option, exploring modern degree apprenticeship routes that allow young people to earn while they learn.

To put their teamwork and digital skills to the test, students were challenged to pitch and create a marketing reel. With a staggering 166 shops at Bicester Village, capturing the essence of the destination in a tight 60-second reel was a huge challenge - but it was a challenge our students absolutely thrived at! The creativity, confidence, and professionalism on display were incredible.

The hospitality industry was also a major highlight of the experience, as we were treated to a gourmet lunch in one of the village's top restaurants - a perk that was incredibly popular with the students!

To top off an already fantastic day, every single student was rewarded with a £50 Bicester Village voucher for their hard work and brilliant engagement throughout the events. It was a superb experience that truly brought career opportunities - and its rewards - to life!



### Rowing Enrichment | Mr Cunningham

This term, as the sun has come out and the river has slowed down, we have ventured out onto the river, leaving the comfort and predictability of the ERGS behind, favouring the untamed waters of the Isis. No matter the wind, rain, hail briefly the other week or sun, the Greyfriars Rowers have thrown themselves into the sport with enthusiasm, and have come on hugely over the course of the year.

One of those rowers is Iliam, who says:

*"Rowing has been an incredible experience for me, it helped me to learn to row and grow my confidence! It was an amazing learning journey for me, I would recommend for all of you to try rowing!"*

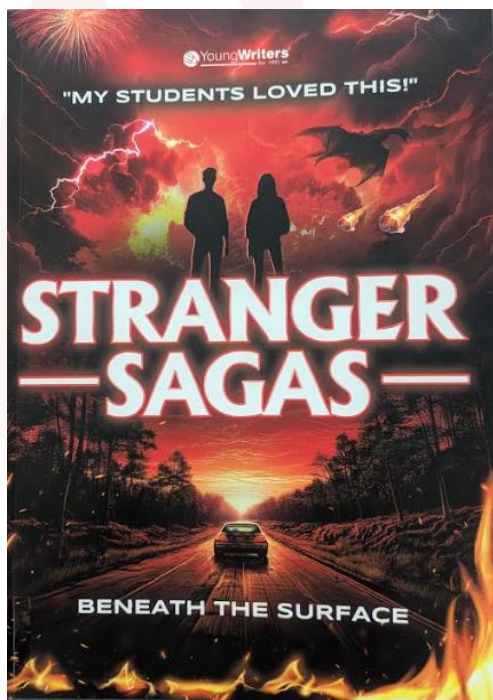
## GENERAL NOTICES

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

In this week's assembly, Year 8 and Year 9 reflected on Matthew 28:16–20, where Jesus calls his followers to make a positive difference in the world. Students explored how this message remains relevant today through the everyday choices we make. By showing positivity in our attitude, words, actions, manners and effort, we can each contribute to a more supportive and respectful school community. Simple acts of kindness, resilience and respect can have a lasting impact on our learning, relationships and the wider community. Every student has the opportunity to lead by example and inspire positive change through their daily actions.

We also took the opportunity to wish our East Timor community a very happy Independence Day. We would like to thank Penelope for sharing the history of East Timor's journey to independence, and Yulanda for delivering a beautiful prayer in Tetum during the assembly.

Finally, we celebrate our Year 9 students, Sahas, Ayesha and John, whose short stories have been published in the book *Stranger Sagas*. Congratulations to our talented and aspiring writers on this fantastic achievement!



Year 8	Year 9
Penelope	John
Mason	Mercy
Zabrina	Delight O
Esther D	Delight A
Francis	Yulanda
Mareietta	Hila
Dylan	Erika
Oscar	Feranmi
Roisin	Tatiana
Caleb	Saron

**Students  
leading the  
way**



**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.

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Message for Year 7 | Mr Cunningham

For year 7 this week, we have been thinking about what we want our reputation to be and how we reflect on those around us. Whether this be at school, in our community or at home, we are all working on showing our best selves and representing ourselves and the school well. Instant wins include a whole day of every student in perfect uniform yesterday!

Equally impressive has been the way Year 7 have embraced our Catholic life events this term. Whether participating in liturgies, reflection days, or acts of service, they have shown a genuine spirit of compassion and community that is truly at the heart of our school.

As we head into half term, we want to say a huge well done to every Year 7 student — you have had a brilliant term and you thoroughly deserve a rest! We hope you enjoy a happy, healthy, and relaxing break with your families, and we look forward to welcoming you back refreshed and ready for more.

We have had our closest termly achievement points league table so far this year, and new term leaders for the first time this year. Congratulations to 7KR who have won their battle against 7GK!

7KR	3,330
7GKE	3,193
7BN	3,118
7ALW	2,014

Faaris	249
Esther	217
Amelia-Grace	205
Martyna	203
Karthik	198
Kairo	191
Sadew	189
Esme	187
Alton	185
Iliam	181
Chloe	181



Years 7, 8, 9 and 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.

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Greyfriars Boys Rise to the Challenge | Miss Kenneford

This week a group of 12 boys proudly represented Greyfriars at the recent *All Herts Competition* in GAA. Travelling to compete against teams with far more experience, the boys initially started the day feeling understandably nervous. However, once they stepped onto the pitch, their confidence quickly began to grow. As the matches progressed, they showed fantastic determination, resilience, and a real willingness to learn.

One of the standout features of the day was the incredible teamwork on display. The boys worked hard to support one another, communicate effectively, and take on valuable feedback throughout the competition. Their attitude and effort were outstanding, and it was clear to see how much they developed as players with each game.

Competing in something unfamiliar is never easy, but every single one of the boys embraced the challenge with courage and enthusiasm. They should all be incredibly proud of themselves for stepping up, representing Greyfriars so positively, and giving their very best.



Well done to all involved – a fantastic effort and an experience to remember!

### Message for KS4 | Mr Weedon

This week, I had the opportunity to speak with Year 10 students during assembly about the importance of reputation, accountability, and personal responsibility. We discussed how every choice they make – both in school and beyond – contributes to the person they are becoming.

A key focus of the assembly was encouraging students to reflect on how they use their time outside of school. Are they making positive decisions? Are they working hard towards their studies? Are they showing respect at home and within the local community? Most importantly, are they striving to be the very best version of themselves each day? As young people move closer towards adulthood, developing strong habits, resilience, and self-discipline becomes increasingly important. We continue to encourage all students to take pride in their actions, their learning, and the way they represent both themselves and our school community.

Meanwhile, Year 11 examinations are progressing extremely well. Students have approached the exam season with maturity, determination, and a positive attitude. It has been especially pleasing to see how happy and focused many students have been throughout this challenging period.

Have a safe week.

## GENERAL NOTICES

# TOUCH OF MADNESS 24 HOUR FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

**OXFORD  
HARLEQUINS**



**GREYFRIARS  
CATHOLIC  
SCHOOL**



## DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?



## 24 HOURS. PUSHING LIMITS. ENDLESS TRIES. ALL FOR A GOOD CAUSE.

SAVE THE DATE: 26TH/27TH JUNE 2026 6PM TO 6PM

**LOCATION: HORSPTH SPORTS GROUND, OX4 2RR**

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION!



## Fundraising Event | Miss Kenneford

Over the past year, Oxford Harlequins RFC has teamed up with Greyfriars Catholic School to create something really special for its students. Through this partnership, young people have enjoyed fun, high-energy, top-quality coaching sessions completely free of charge—helping them build skills, confidence, and a real love for the game. The girls' teams have proudly worn their own sponsored kit, while students across the school have benefited from free equipment and funded memberships at the club, opening the door to opportunities that might otherwise have been out of reach.

This is why our 24-hour touch rugby match is such an important cause. Taking place in an area facing significant deprivation, the event is all about breaking down barriers to participation and making sport accessible for everyone. We want to ensure that cost, access, or opportunity never stand in the way of a young person getting involved. By supporting this challenge, you're helping us continue this incredible work—bringing more fun, opportunity, and community spirit to the next generation.

## 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

- 25 – 29 May Half Term
- 05 June | Year 11 Shirt Signing
- 08 June | Year 10 PPEs Begin
- 08 June | Blackfriars Hall Trip
- 10 June | Year 12 PPEs Begin
- 11 June | Inter-military Cricket Trip
- 17 – 19 June | Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
- 17 June | Year 6 SEND Transition Morning / Year 6 Induction Evening for Families
- 19 June | Year 11 Leavers' Service

### 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

# STEVENSONS Summer Shopping

Your uniform is supplied through our  
*Oxford Branch*

**Address:**

245 Banbury Road,  
Oxford,  
OX2 7HN

**Contact:**

[oxfordbranch@stevensons.co.uk](mailto:oxfordbranch@stevensons.co.uk)

Please note we are a cashless branch.

**Opening Hours:**

Monday: 9:30am - 5pm  
Tuesday: 9:30am - 5pm  
Wednesday: Closed  
Thursday: Closed  
Friday: 9:30am - 5pm  
Saturday: 9:30am - 5pm  
Sunday: Closed

### Online

Shopping online at [www.stevensons.co.uk](http://www.stevensons.co.uk) is easy!

You can select home delivery or opt for convenient Click & Collect from your local store.

Our in-stock items are typically dispatched within 48 hours.  
Plus, with our 365-day return policy, you can shop with confidence knowing that returns are hassle-free.

### In Store Opening Hours

Will be open for pre-booked fitting appointments from Monday 13th July- Friday 21st August.  
We recommend booking a fitting appointment so we can offer you dedicated one-to-one service during the summer period.  
Walk in customers are welcome, Saturdays are a great option for visiting without an appointment, and our team will assist you as soon as they are available.

Please visit our website to check extended opening hours over the summer.



## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

# THE ROBOTS ARE COMING

Sign up in the library today!

Introduction to Coding for Robots

- Do you want to know how robots work?
- Would you like to learn coding for robots?
- Free one hour sessions for ages 8 to 10y & 10 to 14 y

**Sat 23 May, 13:00 to 14:00 [8- 10 years]**  
**Sat 23 May, 14:30 to 15:30 [10-14years]**


&


**Sat 30 May, 13:00 to 14:00 [8- 10 years]**  
**Sat 30 May, 14:30 to 15:30 [10-14years]**

Please note that, parents must stay on site for duration of session

Places are limited  
please email [cowley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cowley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
or call at 01865 815137 to reserve a space

[www.ibnsinamindcrafters.org](http://www.ibnsinamindcrafters.org)  
Ibnsina Mindcrafters CIC is a registered non-profit organisation  
(11523726) operating in England and Wales.

supported by 



## Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre



Aged between 12 and 19?  
Auditions for our 2026-27 season  
Monday 22 & Monday 29 June 2026  
@ 6.30-9 pm  
Centre for Music  
Bayswater Road  
Oxford  
OX3 9FF

Get an audition slot here - register for waiting list  
[registration page](#)



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
supported using public funding from  
OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND  
oxfordshire music hub

# PAINT ABINGDON PINK

- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- DELICIOUS FOOD
- ACTIVITIES FOR ALL

SATURDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> JULY AT ABINGDON MARKETPLACE  
FREE ENTRY FROM 10AM



## FACE June 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

Understanding Anger	1 June 10am
School Anxiety	1 June 7pm
Facing Defiance	2 June 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	2 June 7pm
Anxiety Explained	8 June 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	8 June 7pm
Introduction to OCD	9 June 10am
What is ACT?	9 June 7pm
Decreasing Depression	15 June 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	15 June 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	16 June 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	16 June 7pm
Improving Family Communication	22 June 10am
Autism-Improving Communication	22 June 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	23 June 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	23 June 7pm
ADHD and Homework	25 June 7-8pm

### Additional Support Courses for Parents

Three new courses offered by FACE, separate from the school membership.  
Full access to all three courses for £6.99/month  
Complete at your own pace, cancel anytime.



#### Building Emotional Resilience

Work through six stages of directed exercises to help your child (and yourself) improve emotional resilience.



#### Facing Defiance

A specific strategy aimed at supporting parents of children aged 5 to 12 with ADHD, ODD or just very challenging behaviour.



#### You & Your Teen

A skills building course for one parent and one teen (12 years old and above) to learn how they can both improve their communication with each other.

[www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk)  
Online Courses for Parents page  
[info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk](mailto:info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk)



## 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 2BR on a Wednesday evening at 6-7pm or 7-8pm (depending on age group). And we play fixtures on a Sunday. It was a proud week for us at Quins, as Greg Ffoliaw was picked for England's Six Nations squad. Look out for him on TV in the coming weeks.

**GREG FISILAU**  
ENGLAND SIX NATIONS CALL-UP

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

If you don't have any boots but would like some, please speak with Miss 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.fofea.uk.com](http://www.fofea.uk.com)

Registered Charity Number 1051962

COMMUNITY LARDER SOFEA

**Parent Power**

We support local parents living in the OX4 area

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

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

Need help? Want to get involved?

Get in touch with the team:  
Email: [donna@oxfordhub.org](mailto:donna@oxfordhub.org)

Oxford Hub

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

## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



**FMRI-BWIN**  
University of Oxford,  
John Radcliffe Hospital  
Oxford, OX3 9DU

**Primary researcher:**  
Isabelle Lövgren (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/SC0155

**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 FMRI 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 Pater  
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: 326807  
REC Reference number: 24/SC0155

**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

Supporting your mental health through creativity

scan here to sign up

**Weekly drop-in sessions**  
Wednesdays  
12 -1:30 pm  
term time only

For more info contact:  
hello@ark-t.org or 01865 772095

**MySpace (online)**

MySpace (online) is a weekly creative wellbeing group for 10 to 14 year olds who are struggling with school attendance due to emotional challenges. The sessions run in a drop in / out style supporting individual interests and needs.

Colindale Community Foundation  
Supported by

ARK·T  
Creativity Changes Lives

**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>



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**

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

OXFORD CENTRE FOR MICROBIOME STUDIES

**Microbiome curious?**  
Ask your human microbiome question

Microbiome scientists from the University of Oxford will answer selected questions in short videos for World Microbiome Day 2026.

**What could you ask?**  
Gut bacteria, poo, diet, probiotics, antibiotics, fungi, viruses, the immune system, health, disease, research methods, or anything else about the microbes that live in and on us.

Questions from children are very welcome.

**Submit your question**  
By 30 May

Scan the QR code or use:  
[forms.office.com/e/rKJ57WV9rP](https://forms.office.com/e/rKJ57WV9rP)

Selected answers will be posted for #WorldMicrobiomeDay2026.

Look out for an exciting behind-the-scenes insight into how we study the gut microbiome.

Oxford Centre for Microbiome Studies | World Microbiome Day 2026

# LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**EASTER & SUMMER 2026**

**The WOW Camp**

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

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	MINICRAFT REDSTONE	VIRTUAL REALITY

**NEW FOR EASTER - WOW EXPERIENCES**

INFLATABLES	ANIMALS	STREET DANCE	SCIENCE	LASER TAG
-------------	---------	--------------	---------	-----------

Activities vary by location. Please visit our website to see what's running at your venue.

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

**LIMITED SPACES - BOOK NOW!**

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

# TRY LOVE RUGBY

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

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

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

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

**What's on offer:**

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

**When is it:**

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

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

**Book now and join the adventure!**

[www.scoutadventures.org.uk/events](http://www.scoutadventures.org.uk/events)  
[activeadventures@scoutadventures.org.uk](mailto:activeadventures@scoutadventures.org.uk)  
Scout Adventures Youlbury, Boars Hill, Oxford OX1 5HD

Scout Adventures is owned and operated by The Scout Association. Reg Charity number 204101 (England) and Wales. Registered address: The Scout Association, 100 West Park, Dorking, Surrey, England GU14 7DF.

## 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**

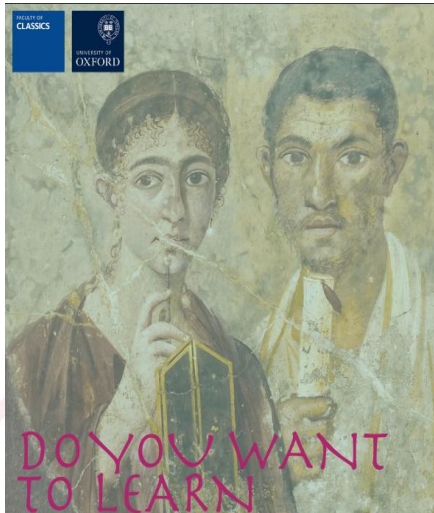
[enquiries@connectionsupport.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@connectionsupport.org.uk)  
01865 711267  
[connectionsupport.org.uk](http://connectionsupport.org.uk)

Drop-in details:

Visit our website to download the referral form

**Connection Support**

## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



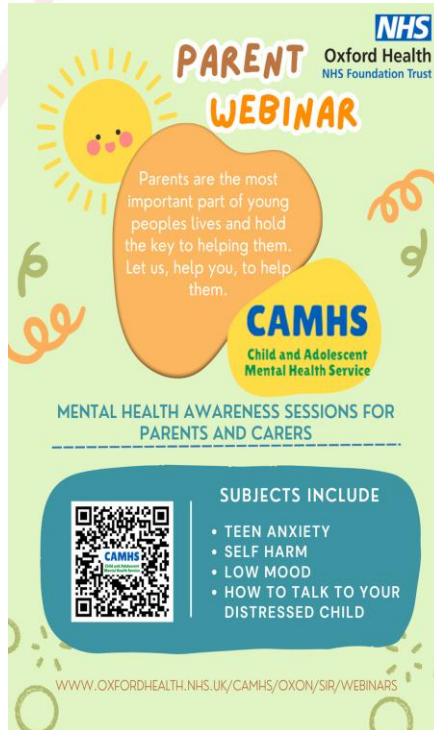
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD CLASSICS

# DO YOU WANT TO LEARN LATIN?

OXFORD LATIN TEACHING SCHEME 2026—2028

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

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



**PARENT WEBINAR**

NHS Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

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

**CAMHS**  
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SESSIONS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

QR CODE

SUBJECTS INCLUDE

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

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



May Half Term

The North Wall Arts Centre

YOUTHLAB  
Ages 12-17

### Playwriting Workshop

26 - 27 May  
1pm - 4pm

Explore writing techniques and exercises to build characters, pacy dialogue and get you started on that all-important idea for the first draft of a play. No experience necessary, everyone has a story to tell!

Tickets £40

---

NW Inventors  
Ages 8-11

### Improvisation Workshop

26 - 27 May  
9am - 12pm

Join us for a playful and brave exploration of thinking on our feet, going with the flow and being faced with the unexpected all whilst we learn the golden rules of improvisation and performance. Expect plenty of games, lots of laughs and heaps of fun!

Tickets £40



Full bursaries available  
Email Abie on [waltona@thenorthwall.com](mailto:waltona@thenorthwall.com) to apply  
**Book now: [thenorthwall.com](http://thenorthwall.com)**



# CALLING ALL YEAR 11 - YEAR 13

SOCIAL FOOTBALL DURING YOUR EXAMS!

QR CODE

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

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



Oxford Hub

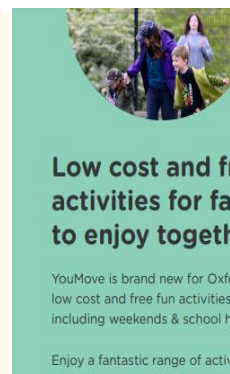
## FREE PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM POP-UP SHOP

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

Open every Monday from 12<sup>th</sup> January 12-2PM

Templers Square Shopping Centre

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT KYLIE 07707918532  
KYLIE@OXFORDHUB.ORG



### Low cost and free activities for families to enjoy together!

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

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

Find out more here:

QR CODE

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

**YOU MOVE**