

# Weekly Newsletter

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026 | Issue 31

Dear Families

Today is the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is a beautiful feast reminding us that at the very centre of our faith is God's unconditional love for humanity and our calling to love in return. Love is a word we use often, perhaps so often that there is a danger of it losing its depth. The Sacred Heart reminds us that love is not simply a feeling or an emotion. It is a choice. It is about remaining steadfast when things become difficult. It is wholehearted, not half-hearted; warm-hearted, not cold-hearted.

Yesterday, Pope Leo spoke of the danger of the 'restless I' that can dominate modern life, urging us instead to rediscover the hidden, beating heart of love that calls us beyond ourselves and into humility and unity. That message resonates deeply with life at Greyfriars. What makes our community distinctive is our willingness to speak openly about love, not sentimentality, but the kind of love that serves and builds community. Jesus' greatest commandment, to love God and to love our neighbour, remains the foundation of the Greyfriars Way. We have seen that lived out beautifully this week.

Our Year 11 shirt-signing ceremony has become something of a rite of passage. It is a joyful occasion (despite the sometimes threatening weather!). Talking to the students, how they stood together for photographs, seeing messages of encouragement, friendship and appreciation written across their shirts, I was struck by the sheer joy of the moment. It was good, wholesome, whole-hearted joy. There was such love present, and it was a privilege to witness. Thank you Y11!



As we move towards the end of the academic year, much of school life is centred on transition. Over the coming weeks we will welcome our new Year 6 students into the Greyfriars family, taking their first steps on what we hope will be a remarkable journey. At the same time, our existing students are preparing for the next stage of their own journeys, moving into new year groups, exams or beginning to think about life beyond school. While circumstances change, the heart of our work remains constant: to work with discipline and love. We are here not simply to succeed, but to serve our community. To leave every person and every place a little better than we found them.

As we enter another weekend, I hope you have the opportunity to carry something of that whole-hearted joy into family life.

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.



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

### Gospel | Matthew 9:9-13



As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

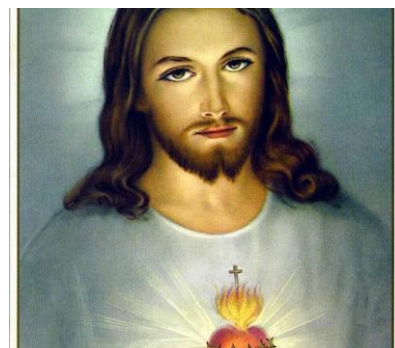
#### Reflection

Here, Jesus calls Matthew, a tax collector for the Roman imperial authority: a public sinner. Having called Matthew precisely when he was sitting at his tax counter, Jesus took his disciples to Matthew's home and sat at the table together with other tax collectors. To the scandalised Pharisees he answered: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.... For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." Here, the Evangelist Matthew, ever attentive to the link between the Old and New Testaments, shows that God's words have come down to us, through the Gospels, as a synthesis of the entire Christian message: true religion consists in love of God and neighbour. (Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, 8 June 2008)

#### Prayer for the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

O most holy heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore you, I love you, and with lively sorrow for my sins, I offer you this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to your will. Grant, good Jesus, that I may live in you and for you. Protect me in the midst of danger. Comfort me in my afflictions. Give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy 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

### Catholic Life | Mr Greer

This week, a group of RE, History, and Sociology students travelled to Blackfriars Hall at Oxford University to tour St. John's C ollege, visit the Oxford Oratory, and then attend research presentations by current postgraduate students. The talks ranged from Roman history to Refugee Studies, Archaeology in the UK to the Sociology of Freemasons in Denmark. The topics were varied and I was impressed by our students' questions and engagement.

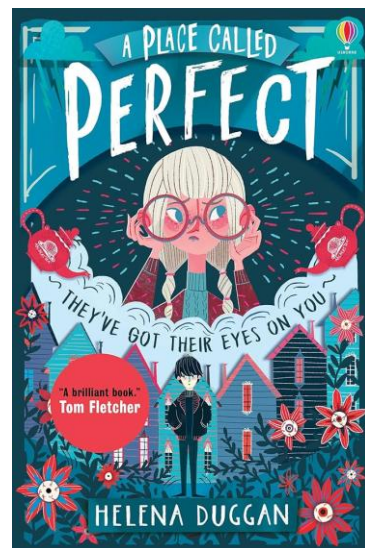
This partnership with Blackfriars is part of our Catholic Life, as Blackfriars is a Dominican Hall. Part of our Catholic faith is the love and pursuit of truth, and so we hope to continue these academic experiences for our students. Part of our relationship with God is to promote curiosity about the world He has created. University study is an excellent way to do so, and there are more subjects and courses there than students are often aware of. This trip was a great way to connect the dots for some about what possibilities exist out there. We're excited for the next opportunity!



### Weekly Book Review by Lian

An intriguing book that immediately grabs attention with its curious title. Even the premise itself is immediately strange and soon enough you find yourself absolutely absorbed into Duggan's universe. So many red flags get raised that it'll take a while until you stop seeing crimson within this book but you have to be careful to try and find answers to every burning question and situation alongside Violet. It's rather reminiscent of something Orwellian due to some of the dystopian features in this world but the novel also seems to hold a feeling of dread yet hope within the reader. You'll feel it when you get deeper into this with each chapter!

As the first part of a trilogy, it's genuinely a super captivating story.



## GENERAL NOTICES

### Library News | Mrs Brett

Hello Clever Cover Crackers! What a wet week we have had (she says, hoping you spent all the rainy evenings curled up with a good book 😊 - after you've completed your homework, of course).

I am very happy because the library has been buzzing. Yes, part of it is the weather, I'm sure. But part of it is more students discovering the library for the calm and safe space that it is! We even have some Y10s coming to revise for their mock exams in the mornings.



We are still very busy processing new books, as well as training our Student Librarians to take on more responsibility. I have some very eager Y7s learning how to process and catalogue books, and planning next year's clubs and activities. So far, we are hoping to run a Book Club, Creative Writing Club, Crochet Club, Art Club, Manga Drawing Club, and Craft Club (which might include clay modelling, card making, bracelet making, and bookmark decorating). If there are any specific clubs you would like us to run, pop up and tell us about it!

Student Librarians are also helping me make some DIY book display stands. They are much nicer than the plastic ones we would have to buy, I dare say. We might have to work on improving stability though. Any budding engineers happy to help?

We are also doing quite well in terms of book loans.

We have had **2695** loans this year so far (for reference – it was 2209 for the entire previous academic year). Can we get it up to 3000 by the end of the term? **YES WE CAN!** 😊

Come along and have a chat with me, and we can find you a story you will love.

We are also almost ready for our annual WHODUNNIT for Crime Reading Month. Crime has been committed; suspects are lined up. We will start solving the mystery on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Come and see if you can discover the truth? There will be prizes for the winning team!



Have a look at this amazing poem written by one of our Y8 students. So much talent!

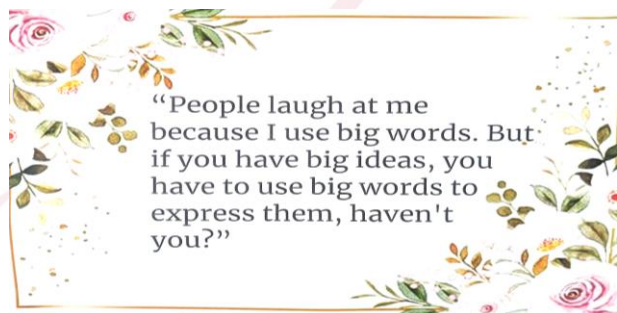
#### Sent Away

I was thirteen, bouncing around houses with my dog, Waffle.  
There was nothing unusual about it. I thought everyone had two homes.  
Maybe I was wrong about it.  
"It's not normal," said Milia.  
I told my mum, she just said "I'll send you away".  
I told my dad, he just said "I'll send you away".  
Maybe I was just sure they wouldn't send me away.  
I was wrong again, or I was just hopeful.  
I'm now far away but maybe the plan was to send me away all along.

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Library News Continued...

Finally, this is one of my favourite quotes of all time – can you guess where it’s from?



Here’s where we are in terms of Reading Champions:

TERM 6   WEEK 2				
	Reading Champ		Tutor Group Reading Championship	
1	Sahas	56	8LSC	80.65%
2	Roisin	41	8BMO	76.2%
3	Ludozio	20	8RM	72.7%
4	Ayesha	14	7ALW	70%
5	Phoebe	10	7GKE	55.1%

Happy weekend, everyone!

### Message for Sixth Form | Ms McCabe

#### Y12 PPEs

Our Y12 have made a brilliant start to their PPEs. I have been so impressed with the number of students studying hard in school even while they are on study leave. Success at A Level is a mindset and students who thrive are those who understand the amount of work that needs to be completed independently. Well done Y12. One more week to go!

#### Term 6 fun!

A reminder again about the many opportunities students have to get involved in our Sixth Form and whole school events coming up in Term 6. We need lots of volunteers. This is a great chance to build up personal statements and work experience and really make a difference.



#### Sixth Form School Council

Our new Y12 School Council met on Tuesday this week. The students will be meeting weekly after the PPEs and will be looking at ways to develop all aspects of Sixth Form life. This is such an important element of Sixth Form. If any other students want to get involved please let me know.

## GENERAL NOTICES

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

As we move through the term, remember that 100% attendance gives you the opportunity to earn a place on our exciting trip to Thorpe Park. Every day in school matters and helps you make the most of your learning. We also encourage all students to demonstrate the Greyfriars Way through respect, kindness and pride in wearing the correct uniform. It's okay to make mistakes; everyone does. What matters is learning from them and making better choices next time. Growth comes from reflection and resilience. Lead by example, support those around you, and be the best version of yourself every day.

We celebrate the following students who are actively demonstrating these values on a frequent basis. RE lessons begin with prayers. This term 8LSC have got into the beautiful habit of praying in unison, like a choir of angels (led by Rosmelia, Penelope, Britania, Sabella, Guardion and Sky). Taryn, Emilly, Gabriella and Demi make sure exercise books have been distributed. A huge thank you to all the students who help at the start of the lesson. It really is appreciated.

A huge well done to Wissam and Sampson, who earned Golden Tickets this week after making a wonderful impression on a visitor to our school. Their warm, friendly welcome was greatly appreciated and reflected our school values beautifully. We are very proud of them, keep up the fantastic work!

#### Students leading the way

Year 8	Year 9
Kerfala	Kevin
Crystal	Delight
Jevania	Da Vinci
Dylan	Ammarah
Kennedy	Tyler
Ganuli	Sylvia
Anne-Marie	Jason
Karina	Alexandra
Sara	Yulanda
Jaime	Mercy



**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

This week's assembly had students looking ahead with excitement to the transition from Year 7 to Year 8 — a brilliant opportunity to reflect on how far they have come and everything that lies ahead. It is a big step, and one we know they are more than ready for.

Off the back of that positive energy, our boys had a fantastic Thursday, representing the school with real pride in a football tournament. They played with determination, teamwork, and great spirit throughout — a brilliant performance that did the school proud.

Meanwhile, our girls had a truly special moment in the spotlight on Wednesday, being interviewed by BBC Radio Oxford alongside Oxford Quinns Rugby. To represent the school on a platform like that takes confidence and character, and they rose to the occasion brilliantly. We couldn't be prouder!

It has been a week full of highlights, and a wonderful reminder of just how much our students have to offer. Well done to everyone involved — you have been outstanding ambassadors for our school.

### Sparx Maths **WEEK 30**

Total hours spent on Sparx this year

10,736hrs

Number of questions answered correctly

818,558

#### XP Champions THIS YEAR | 12/06/26

Name	Year	Total XP
Miu Miu M	8	58,451
Seerat S	7	55,640
Sampson O	8	50,570
Hajera S	12	42,654
Rayan P	7	41,800
Aman A	9	40,329
Samayrah K	10	39,303
Nita C	11	38,435
Gaudencio F	9	38,312
Aseda k	7	37,343

#### XP Champions for LAST WEEK

Name	Year	XP POINTS
Hajera S	12	1,181
Kanchan L	12	581
David E	11	3,275
Yunxi Ji	11	1,845
Natasha J	10	1,640
Kaden E	10	1,609
Brooklyn J	9	3,171
Muhammad N	9	1,588
Sampson O	8	3,688
Simrah H	8	2,357
Muhammed A W	7	3,775

7KR have bounced back to the top of our Year 7 achievement point league, led by Laura with a massive 73 Achievement points this week! Massive well done!

7KR	410
7BN	340
7GKE	322
7ALW	245

Laura	73
Mia	54
Rugeisa	53
Elia	43
Niall	32
Imiyah	29
Karthik	28
Chloe	26
Amelia-Grace	24

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Message for KS4 | Mr Weedon

#### Year 11

The Year 11 Leavers' Celebration was amazing – a truly great day with a fantastic atmosphere. It's sad to see them all leave, but they should be proud of everything they've achieved. Wishing every one of them the very best of luck in their remaining exams and for whatever comes next.

#### Year 10

Year 10 have shown outstanding attendance during their exams, and we look forward to seeing how well they do. Keep up the hard work, dedication, and effort – it will all pay off. Good luck to everyone!

Form Group	Total Point Awards
10MJ	110
10JOD	83
10CT	77
10SA	77

**Well done!**  
**Have a great weekend.**

### The Beacon | Mrs Swanton

A huge well done to the students who have been working on various projects in The Beacon – examples of their work are shown below.



Mario



Ludozio



Lexi



Ludozio



Mario



Tommy



Lexi

**Well done!**

## 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

 National School Breakfast Programme is delivered by Family Action.  
Find out more at [family-action.org.uk/NSBP](http://family-action.org.uk/NSBP).

National School Breakfast Programme  
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

- 17 – 18 June | Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
- 17 June | Year 6 SEND Transition Morning / Year 6 Induction Evening for Families
- 18 June | Year 8 Retreat to Greyfriars Church
- 19 June | Year 11 Leavers' Service
- 22 – 26 June | Year 10 Work Experience Week
- 23 June | Year 13 Celebration Evening
- 24 – 26 June | Y6 into Y7 Transition Days
- 25 June | Year 13 Leavers' Service
- 29 June | INSET Day – No students in school

### 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

**Free**

**Holiday Activities and Food**

for eligible 4-16 yr olds  
who get benefits-related free school meals.

- Climbing
- Crafts
- Sports
- Cookery
- Dance
- Dodgeball
- and more

Find a club for you  
[eequ.org/hafoxfordshire](http://eequ.org/hafoxfordshire)

fun, friendship and adventure

Department for Education

HAF programme

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### THE LEYS FESTIVAL ONE PEOPLE ONE PLACE

is co-created by residents of the Leys and the Cultural Programme at the University of Oxford.

GET INVOLVED!  
11 JULY 2026



### THE LEYS FESTIVAL ONE PEOPLE ONE PLACE

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 16 April

The Leys College (Activate Learning) Cuddesdon Way, OX4 6HN

Free food, music, and a chance to meet the group who have made the Festival since 2024. You can sign-up for a stall or to volunteer, or just come along and tell us what you want from your local community festival.

Everyone welcome

Regular Festival meetings are on Thursday evenings 8-9pm usually at The Leys College, come along and make sure the Festival belongs to the whole community every idea, and every offer of help, however small, makes a difference.

2026 meetings are:  
9 April, 16 April (OPEN EVENING), 30 April  
14 May, 21 May  
11 June, 25 June  
8 July

Find out more at <https://linktr.ee/LeysFestival>



Oxford Phoenix Chinese Dance Society presents

### 三时纪

Parallax  
a dance journey

舞间行旅



Saturday, 13 June 2026

2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre,  
St Anne's College



Tickets  
[tinyurl.com/46yasnav](https://tinyurl.com/46yasnav)



### HOLIDAY CLUBS of oxfordshire

BASED AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY SPORT, IFFLEY ROAD

4-12  
YEAR  
OLDS

[WWW.HOLIDAYCLUBSOFXFORDSHIRE.CO.UK](http://WWW.HOLIDAYCLUBSOFXFORDSHIRE.CO.UK)



### 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

### Helping an ADHD Child with Homework



### FREE one hour online session for parents Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 7pm - 8pm

Join us online to get some advice on how to help your ADHD child start and complete their homework.

Book on the PARENTS - Live Talks page  
[facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

### 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**

**YEAR 7 TO 11**

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

**GAMES, ACTIVITIES, MUSIC, FOOD**

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 lender club
- Meet new people in a friendly environment

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

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

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

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

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

Want free food and a bunch of other benefits? Sign up today! [www.sofea.uk.com](http://www.sofea.uk.com)

Registered Charity Number 1051962

COMMUNITY LARDER SOFEA

**Parent Power**

We support local parents living in the OX4 area

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

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

Need help? Want to get involved?

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

**Oxford Hub**

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

## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### 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](#)



**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!

Supporting your mental health through creativity

scan here to sign up

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

**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.

## 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**

# PAINT ABINGDON PINK

- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- DELICIOUS FOOD
- ACTIVITIES FOR ALL

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

# LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**EASTER & SUMMER 2026**

**The WOW Camp**

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

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

HMRC TAX-FREE CHILDCARE 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
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Activities vary by location. Please visit our website to see what's running at your venue.

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

**LIMITED SPACES - BOOK NOW!**

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

**TRY LOVE RUGBY**

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

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

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

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

**What's on offer:**

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

**When is it:**

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

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

**Book now and join the adventure!**  
[www.scoutadventures.org.uk/events](http://www.scoutadventures.org.uk/events)  
[activeadventures@scoutadventures.org.uk](mailto:activeadventures@scoutadventures.org.uk)  
Scout Adventures Youlbury, Boars Hill, Oxford OX1 5HD

Scout Adventures is owned and operated by The Scout Association. Reg Charity number 204401 (England and Wales). Registered address: The Scout Association, 21 West Park, Dorking, Surrey, England GU14 7JN.

**TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!**

**AMAZING LEGO DISPLAYS**

**NEW & RETIRED LEGO SETS**

**BUILD CHALLENGES**

**ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES**

**CHARITY TOMBOLA**

**MILLIONS OF LOOSE BRICKS**

**PLUS SO MUCH MORE!!**

**11TH JULY**  
KINGS CENTRE  
**OXFORD BRICK FESTIVAL**

**MORE LEGO THAN YOU CAN DREAM OF**

**Are you at risk of losing your home?**

**We can help you to avoid eviction**

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

**Get in touch**

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

Drop-in details:

Visit our website to download the referral form

Connection Support

# LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**DO YOU WANT TO LEARN LATIN?**

OXFORD LATIN TEACHING SCHEME  
2026—2028

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

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

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

OXFORD HUB

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

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

Templers Square Shopping Centre

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT KYLIE 07707918532  
KYLIE@OXFORDHUB.ORG

UKIDS HOLIDAY CAMPS HELD AT ST MARY & ST JOHN PRIMARY

Ofsted Approved

TAX-FREE CHILDCARE VOUCHER ACCEPTED

10% SIBLING DISCOUNT

FULL WEEK DISCOUNTED RATE

STANDARD DAILY RATE **£45** Per Day

REDUCED FULL WEEK RATE **£39** Per Day

LATE PICK UP **+£6** Per Day

MASSIVE MOMENTS

BRAIN BUSTERS OPERATION OUTDOORS

CRAZY CRAFTS SUPER SPORTS

RECEPTION - YEAR 7 4 - 12 YEARS

8:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
LATE PICK UP UNTIL 6PM

WWW.U-KIDS.CO.UK/CAMPS/OXFORD-HOLIDAY-CLUB

**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

**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

**MASSIVE MOMENTS**

- Inflatable Obstacle Course
- Bouncy Castle
- Inflatable Football Darts
- NERF Wars
- Laser Tag

**CRAZY CRAFTS**

- Drawing & Painting
- 3D & Model Making
- Camp-Themed Crafts
- Seasonal-Themed Crafts

**BRAIN BUSTERS**

- Lego Challenges
- Engineering Challenges
- Science Discovery Zones
- Puzzle Games

**SUPER SPORTS**

- Dodgeball
- Football
- Tag Rugby
- Soft Archery
- Darts
- Mini Olympics
- Ti-Golf
- Netball
- Cricket
- Hockey

**OPERATION OUTDOORS**

- Exploration Games
- Bushcraft & Survival Skills
- Outdoor Team Challenges
- Nature Science