

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 3rd July 2026 | Issue 34

Dear Families

This week we celebrated the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. Although very different people, they were united by one mission: to proclaim the Gospel and build God's Church.

In our assemblies, we focused particularly on St Peter, the rock upon whom Jesus chose to build his Church. We reflected on the importance of strong foundations. Buildings stand firm because the unseen foundations are secure; our lives are no different. Character, habits, kindness, honesty and resilience (grit!) are the foundations upon which everything else is built.

The feast of St Peter has always held a special place in my own heart because I attended St Peter's School. I shared entertaining photographs of myself as a student, which raised plenty of laughter and comments this week. It reminded us all that it is good to laugh at ourselves. Here is a photo, but not one of the worst!

I also reflected that I probably wasn't the most engaged student in every lesson, but some messages from my school have stayed with me throughout my life. One in particular was the idea that we are living stones, each playing our part in building something much bigger than ourselves. Looking back, I realised this is exactly what we mean at Greyfriars when we talk about *doing the basics brilliantly*. If we build strong foundations, being kind, working hard, showing respect, and taking responsibility, then brilliance follows naturally.



That message has been wonderfully evident throughout school this week.

Our Catholic Social Teaching theme has been Participation, and I continue to be struck by the way our students embrace it. We often say that our students are not simply polite, they are Greyfriars polite. Several times this week I have been showing visitors around the school and have heard students cheerfully say, "Welcome to Greyfriars!" These simple acts of hospitality tell visit

Continued on the next page...



One of the highlights of the week has been our **Citizens UK exhibition**, where students presented their campaign to improve transport opportunities for young people across Oxford. They spoke confidently to members of the public, explained their proposals with conviction and even took part in interviews for the BBC. It was inspiring to see them recognising that they have the power to shape their community. Like the great social reformers before them, the abolitionists, the suffragettes and so many others, they are learning that change begins when ordinary people choose to participate.

We also came together as a whole school to celebrate Mass for Saints Peter and Paul. These occasions are rare and precious. Bringing our entire community together under one roof is no small logistical feat, especially in the heat, but it was a joyful celebration. Looking around the sports hall, I was reminded once again of a phrase used by one of our departing Year 13 students to describe Greyfriars: wholesome. I have thought about that word often this week. There really is something wonderfully wholesome about hundreds of young people gathering in prayer, singing together, showing reverence and simply enjoying being part of something bigger than themselves. Together, we are whole.

As we move towards the end of term, there is still so much to look forward to. Our Year 7 students are currently on retreat, with Years 8 and 9 following soon. We have our Thorpe Park reward trip, Culture Day and Sports Day all on the horizon, wonderful opportunities for students to celebrate, compete, learn and grow together.

The weather forecast suggests another warm week ahead. Thank you, as always, for your continued support as we adapt together. Greyfriars grit will continue, and I know our students will approach everything that lies ahead with the same enthusiasm, resilience and community spirit they have shown throughout the year.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Lyndsey Caldwell

WHAT IS GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ME THIS WEEK?

Gospel | Matthew 10:37-42



Jesus said to his apostles: "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives

a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple— amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."

Reflection

Jesus asks his disciples to take the demands of the Gospel seriously, even when that requires sacrifice and effort. Jesus certainly does not intend to undervalue love for parents and children, but he knows that if family bonds are put in first place, they can deviate from the true good. We see this: some forms of corruption in governments come about precisely because love for family is greater than love for country, and so they put family members in charge. When, instead, love for parents and children is inspired and purified by love for the Lord, it then becomes wholly fruitful and produces good fruits within the family itself and well beyond it.

There is no true love without the cross, that is, without a personal price to pay. Many mothers, many fathers who sacrifice a great deal for their children, and bear true sacrifices, crosses, because they love them, say this. And the cross is not frightening when borne with Jesus, because he is always at our side to support us in the hour of the most difficult trial, to give us strength and courage. (Pope Francis, angelus, 28 June 2020).

Prayer for the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

God of saints and sinners, by the power of the Holy Spirit Peter and Paul bore courageous witness to the death and resurrection of your Son. Hear our prayer for your blessings, that we may be more faithful witnesses to the truth of the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, both now and for ever. 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 was a busy one for Catholic Life. On Thursday, we had our second whole school mass of the year, celebrating the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. It was a beautiful service full of singing, participation, and testimonies about Rome, where students actually got to visit the tombs of Saints Peter and Paul. We also marked one year since our Jubilee Year pledge: we are pleased to say that we fulfilled all that we committed to!



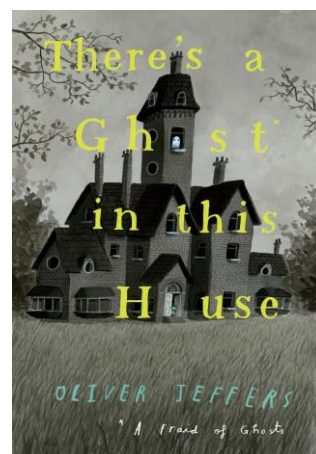
We also put on our exhibition for Citizens UK about the need to make transport more affordable for young people in the city. Students worked hard all week making art, writing testimonies, or taking photos, and it paid off as visitors from the city came to visit, socialise, and ask questions. I could have done this without the hard work of students and staff! We even got a visit from BBC Oxford, so pay attention to the news to learn more in the coming days.



Weekly Book Review by Mrs Brett

A spooky illustrated picture book from New York Times number-one bestselling author of *Here We Are*

I know what you're thinking – why on earth are we reviewing a PICTURE BOOK? We're in secondary school, not pre-school, after all! Hear me out. *There's a Ghost in This House* is such a fun and clever picture book! I loved how you have to turn the transparent pages to spot all the hidden ghosts—it makes you feel like you're part of the story. The illustrations are beautiful, the idea is really witty and creative, and it's spooky in a playful rather than scary way. This book is perfect if you want to have a break from longer stories, want to have a giggle, or amuse your younger sibling (and inspire the love of reading in them too!). Come to the library and check it out for yourself (pun intended).



GENERAL NOTICES

Congratulations!

A huge congratulations to one of our students, who last weekend completed a 5-kilometre charity run to raise money for cancer research and support families affected by cancer. In an outstanding achievement, he finished in second place with a fantastic time of **18 minutes 32 seconds**, setting a new personal best (PB). We are incredibly proud of his dedication, generosity, and sporting success. Well done!



Message for Sixth Form | Ms McCabe

Sixth Form Transition Day

We were delighted to welcome our new Y12 into Sixth Form this week. On Wednesday, students from Greyfriars and local city schools enjoyed a day of taster lessons and workshops. This is a key opportunity to experience new subjects and lessons. It's also an opportunity to gain an insight into life as a Sixth Form student. We hope they left inspired and excited about the next stage of their education! If any students have questions about courses or the summer homework, they should email me. No final decisions about subject choices need to be made until the day of GCSE results. In the meantime, Y11 should relax and look forward to the long summer ahead!

Attendance & Punctuality

Two weeks is a long time in school. Y12 are currently in the process of receiving their PPE papers and their grades and going through feedback to identify the gaps in their knowledge. After this, students will be looking at Y13 content. For these reasons, it is essential that students continue to attend school in these final two weeks of the term. Students need to be in every day, arriving punctually by 8:45am for Form Time.

Message for Year 10 | Mr Weedon

Y10 have been working hard to review their exam results, reflecting on their successes and identifying areas for improvement. It has been fantastic to see their positive attitude towards learning from both their strengths and the challenges they have faced.

We also celebrated a very successful Mass this week, with many Y10 students volunteering to help. A huge well done to everyone who was involved – they represented themselves and the school brilliantly, and we are incredibly proud of them.

Attendance continues to be a key focus for all Year 10 students. Being in school every day has a significant impact on learning, progress, and achievement. We encourage all students to attend regularly so they can make the most of every learning opportunity.

GENERAL NOTICES

Library News | Mrs Brett

Hello Noble Novel Navigators! IT IS TIME! What for? – you might ask. Ah, it is time to stock up for the summer break 😊. You should all have received an email by now to return your current loans and borrow some new, exciting reads for the holidays. Christina, (my Y10 work experience student) has prepared a super fun Reading BINGO for you, come and grab your sheet from the library. There are plenty of books to choose from and my Student Librarians and I will be more than happy to give you some recommendations.



Incidentally, we have recently received a wonderful book donation from Professor Stephen Harrison – there is plenty to choose from: fiction, non-fiction, and even some fantastic coursebooks.



I have also put together a display for summer reads (I wonder if you can guess the theme...) :D.



Happy weekend, everyone! Stay safe in the heat. Drink a page, reAhydrate!

Now, for the Reading Champions... we are nearing the end of school year, keep borrowing (and reading) 😊.

We are still deciding what clubs and activities to run next year, so feel free to come up and give us your suggestions.

Finally, I love it when students bring me their creative works, in any medium or form. Here's another lovely poem, written by a Y8 student:

Time heals
*You were my world
And I was yours
And now we're nothing to each other
Anymore
And maybe a part of me still likes you, but I just
don't know if you
Like me back but I can live with that
I texted you the other day just saying "hi"
Even though I thought I said I want to say "bye"
You're meant to be blocked but my heart is
getting unlocked.
7 months was a long time
Maybe we can draw a line
And just be friends for just some time*

TERM 6 WEEK 4				
	Reading Champ		Form Championship	
1	Sahas	70	8BMO	86.4%
2	Roisin	49	8LSC	81.3%
3	Ludozio	20	7ALW	75%
4	Ayesha	17	8RM	72.7%
5	Phoebe, Martyna	10	7GKE	62.1%

GENERAL NOTICES

Message for Year 8 and Year 9 | Mrs Reddy

As we head into the final weeks of the school year, there's so much to look forward to! We have an exciting line-up of events, starting with the **Thorpe Park Trip** on **13 July** so the **big push for attendance on this one** continues. Please make sure your **£20 deposit** is paid to secure your place.

Culture Day on **15 July**, followed by **Sports Day** on **16 July**.

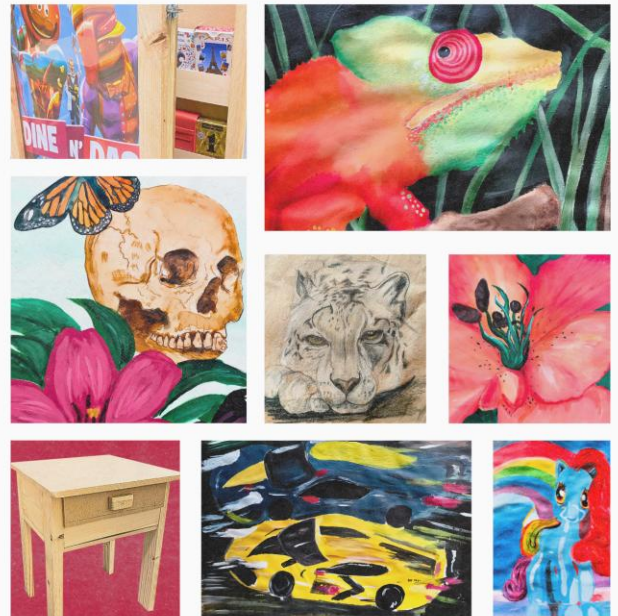
The competition for achievement points is still on, every student has the opportunity to be recognised and celebrated at the Year Group Assembly and End of Year Awards. While blazers are now optional, high uniform standards must still be maintained. You've come this far, and I have every confidence that you'll continue to give your best and finish the year strong!

Students leading the way

Year 8	Year 9
Kerfala	Ayesha
Ephraim	Ivonja
Niall	John
Rachael	Luciano
Oscar	Joshua
Margaret	Chris
Kenedy	Summer
Grant	Thomas
Lena	Junaid
Isayah	Aminata

Have a lovely weekend!

GREYFRIARS **CATHOLIC SCHOOL** YEAR 11 GCSE ART & DESIGN TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION 2026



WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY 2026 3:10 PM - 4:30 PM
Main Hall, Greyfriars Catholic School, Oxford

✳ Refreshments provided by Mrs Awanyo and the Food Department ✳

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

As we move into the final stretch of the year, we wanted to start by saying a heartfelt thank you to everyone who played a part in making transition week such a success. The care and effort shown by students, staff, and families in welcoming our new Year 7 cohort has been wonderful to see — you have helped set them up brilliantly for the journey ahead.

We would also like to extend a huge well done to all those involved in the Citizens UK exhibition. It takes real courage and commitment to stand up and speak out on issues that matter, and our students represented the school with tremendous pride. A fantastic achievement.

As we head towards the end of term, we want to gently remind all students that our high expectations of uniform and behaviour remain in place right up until the final day. Finishing the year as we mean to go on is something we take real pride in, and we know our students are more than capable of seeing it through.

Finally, we cannot wait to share stories and highlights from the Youlbury and Carmelite retreat with you all next week — watch this space!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend.

Sparx Maths **WEEK 33**

Total hours spent on Sparx this year

11,596hrs

Number of questions answered correctly

881,558

XP Champions THIS YEAR | 03/07/26

Name	Year	Total XP
Miu Miu M	8	62,451
Seerat S	7	58,640
Sampson O	8	54,570
Rayan P	7	44,900
Aman A	9	43,329
Samayrah K	10	41,323
Gaudencio F	9	41,312
Aseda k	7	39,343
Mia E	7	38,976
Marvelous E	7	37,845

XP Champions for LAST WEEK

Name	Year	XP POINTS
Elijah O	10	1,240
Kaden E	10	959
Muhammed N	9	1,471
Vielnia O	9	1,388
Louise L	8	1,288
Sampson O	8	1,157
Saveeha W	7	1,775
Jeffrey N	7	1,545
Elijah O	10	1,240
Kaden E	10	959
Muhammed N	9	1,471

GENERAL NOTICES

Free School Meals



National Changes to Free School Meals from September 2026

The current transitional protection arrangements for Free School Meals will end in July 2026. This means that pupils who are currently receiving FSM will not automatically remain eligible from September 2026. To continue receiving Free School Meals, families will need to meet the revised eligibility criteria.

Expanded Eligibility from September 2026

From September 2026, **all children living in households that receive Universal Credit** will be eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of household income.

If you believe that your child is eligible for free school meals, please complete the following Google Form: [Free School Meals Registration Form](#)

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

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

GENERAL NOTICES



Greyfriars Catholic School
Invites you to a

FREE BREAKFAST!

Get an energy boost before
class with a **FREE** breakfast -
don't miss out!

When: Every week day
Where: School Restaurant
Time: 8:00am-8:30am

 family
action

National School Breakfast Programme is delivered by Family Action.
Find out more at family-action.org.uk/NSBP.

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

School Lunch Accounts

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

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



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

Astroturf

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

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

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

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

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



GENERAL NOTICES

Dates for your Diary

6 July | Year 9 / Year 10 Pilgrimage to St Frideswide's Well

7 July | Called to Act Trip

8 July | Creative Industries Trip

8 July | Year 11 Art Exhibition

9 July | Year 11 Celebration Evening

10 July | Oxford Powerhouse Games

13 July | Thorpe Park Reward Trip

15 July | Culture Day

16 July | Sports Day

Donations

If you wish to make a donation to the school please click on the link.

DONATE

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is open

Mon – Fri 8.00am - 8.30am in our restaurant.

Everyone is welcome to come and join us for breakfast club.
Breakfast is free. Start your day with friends and food!



Greyfriars Vacancies

If you are interested in joining the team at Greyfriars Catholic School, please email our School Business Manager, Sophie Upellini via: s.upellini@gfcs.uk
<https://www.greyfriarsoxford.org.uk/join-us/vacancies> or visit: to view all our current vacancies.

Archdiocese of Birmingham Vacancies

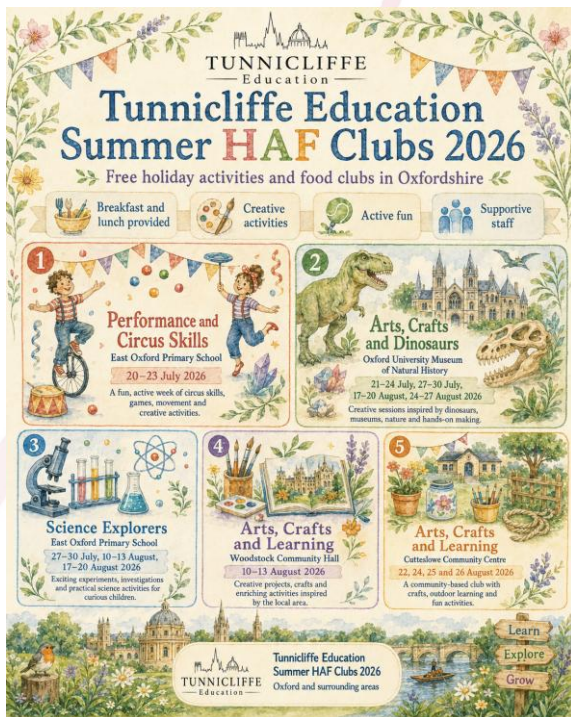


<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/jobs>



You Tube

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



TUNNICLIFFE Education
Tunncliffe Education Summer HAF Clubs 2026
Free holiday activities and food clubs in Oxfordshire

Breakfast and lunch provided | Creative activities | Active fun | Supportive staff

- Performance and Circus Skills**
East Oxford Primary School
20-23 July 2026
A fun, active week of circus skills, games, movement and creative activities.
- Arts, Crafts and Dinosaurs**
Oxford University Museum of Natural History
21-24 July, 27-30 July, 17-20 August, 24-27 August 2026
Creative sessions inspired by dinosaurs, museums, nature and hands-on making.
- Science Explorers**
East Oxford Primary School
27-30 July, 10-13 August, 17-20 August 2026
Exciting experiments, investigations and practical science activities for curious children.
- Arts, Crafts and Learning**
Woodstock Community Hall
10-13 August 2026
Creative projects, crafts and enriching activities inspired by the local area.
- Arts, Crafts and Learning**
Cutehaven Community Centre
22, 24, 25 and 26 August 2026
A community-based club with crafts, outdoor learning and fun activities.

Learn | Explore | Grow

Tunncliffe Education
Summer HAF Clubs 2026
Oxford and surrounding areas

STEVENSONS

Summer Shopping

Your uniform is supplied through our
Oxford Branch

Address:
245 Banbury Road,
Oxford,
OX2 7HN

Contact:
oxfordbranch@stevensonsschools.co.uk

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

Please note we are a cashless branch.

Online
Shopping online at www.stevensonsschools.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.

The Great DRAGON Adventure

Set off on a thrilling Dragon Quest this summer at Discover Bucks Museum in Aylesbury and turn your museum visit into an unforgettable family adventure.

Can you brave the dragon quest and discover the treasure?

Discover, play and explore all day long!

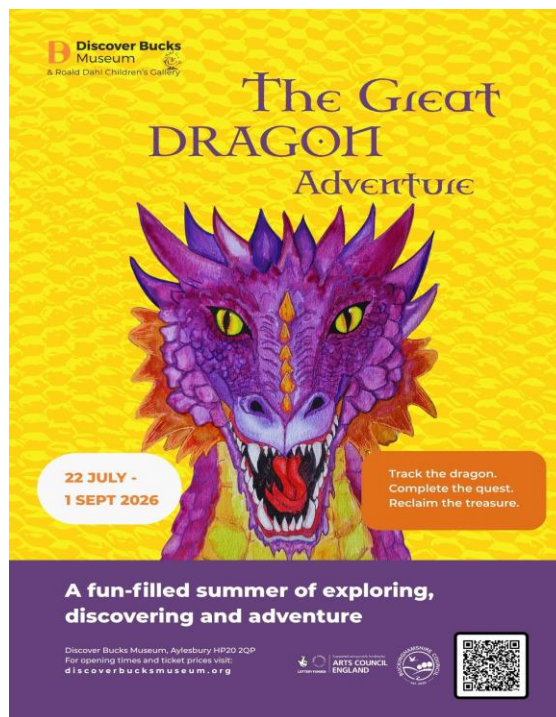
22 JULY - 1 SEPT 2026
All included in your Roald Dahl Children's Gallery ticket

- ★ **The Great Dragon Adventure** - Children will love tracking the dragon, having fun with the hands-on challenges and exploring the Museum
- ★ **Roald Dahl Children's Gallery** - hands-on discovery and amazing science inspired by Roald Dahl's stories
- ★ **The SAXONS** - an immersive exhibition
- ★ **Museum Galleries** - discover 200 million years of Bucks history in our family-friendly museum galleries
- ★ **Sensory Room**
- ★ **Outdoor toys and games** in the museum garden
- ★ **Cift Shop and Garden Café** with kid's lunchboxes available or bring a picnic

For more details, charges and to book please scan the QR code or visit discoverbucksmuseum.org

Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury HP20 2QP
01296 331441 | discoverbucksmuseum.org

Buckinghamshire County Museum Trust is a company registered in England and Wales with charity number 1183345 and VAT registered no. 190263031



Discover Bucks Museum
A Roald Dahl Children's Gallery

The Great DRAGON Adventure

22 JULY - 1 SEPT 2026

Track the dragon. Complete the quest. Reclaim the treasure.

A fun-filled summer of exploring, discovering and adventure

Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury HP20 2QP
For opening times and ticket prices visit discoverbucksmuseum.org

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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:

14 April, 18 April (OPEN EVENING), 30 April
14 May, 28 May
11 June, 25 June
8 July

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



HOLIDAY CLUBS of oxfordshire

BASED AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY SPORT, IFFLEY ROAD

4-12
YEAR
OLDS

WWW.HOLIDAYCLUBSOFFOXFORDSHIRE.CO.UK



July 2026 Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom, 90 minutes long
£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours

Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	6 July 10am
Anxiety Explained	6 July 7pm
Introduction to OCD	7 July 10am
What is ACT?	7 July 7pm
Decreasing Depression	13 July 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	13 July 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	14 July 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	14 July 7pm
FREE - Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 July 7-8pm
Autism-Improving Communication	20 July 10am
Improving Family Communication	20 July 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	21 July 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	21 July 7pm
Understanding Anger	27 July 10am
School Anxiety	27 July 7pm
Facing Defiance	28 July 10am
Supporting Health Screen Use	28 July 7pm

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

Fun, friendship and adventure

Department
for Education



GIRLS MUAY THAI Summer course

6 week beginner
programme

Every Friday @ 10am-11am

24th July - 28th August
(Summer holidays)

Location: OXRAD Sports
Centre, OX3 0NQ

**ONLY 8 SPACES
AVAILABLE**

Ages 13-17

£65 FOR FULL
COURSE
£55 EARLY BIRD
(ENDS 1ST JULY)

A safe, structured introduction to
Muay Thai for teenage girls.

- Confidence building
- Fitness & coordination
- Muay Thai technique
- Pad work & controlled drills

Head Coach:
Lucy Heald

[07398246814](https://www.facebook.com/07398246814)

[@siamsistersmuaythai](https://www.instagram.com/siamsistersmuaythai)

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

Online Courses for Parents page
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

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

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

FUN AND SOCIAL FOOTBALL FREE TO ATTEND.

Contact Us plkicks@oufc.co.uk

Premier League Kicks OXFORD UNITED

Oxford Quins RFC

Rugby Club

GREYFRIARS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

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

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

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

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

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

GREG FISILAU

ENGLAND SIX NATIONS CALL-UP

Bring your Boots!

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

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

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday!

From Laura and the Quins coaching team.

Blackbird Leys COMMUNITY LARDER

Oxford Hub Working together to build a better Oxford

What is a community larder?

A membership programme that provides:

- Access to utility discounts and social tariffs
- Local business discounts
- Little larder club
- Meet new people in a friendly environment

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

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

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

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

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

Want free food and a bunch of other benefits? Sign up today! www.sofea.uk.com

Registered Charity Number 1051962

COMMUNITY LARDER SOFEA

Parent Power

We support local parents living in the OX4 area

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

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

Need help? Want to get involved?

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

Oxford Hub

oxfordhub.org/parent-power

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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](#)



Supported using public funding by



Created by Young women, for Young Women



DefendHER

Join us for a powerful day of movement, learning and connection. Designed by our Training Ground Artists, these workshops will help you build confidence in your body, develop practical skills, support your wellbeing, and connect with other young women in your community.



Join Us
AUGUST 6, 2026

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Hip hop dance workshops
- Personal Safety and Self-Protection
- Specialist guest talks
- Yoga and wellbeing activities
- Creative sessions and discussions
- Opportunities to meet and connect with other young women

These workshops are for young women and those who identify as women ages 14-19 years old



Thursday 6th August, 10-3pm
Pegasus Theatre, OX4 1RE
£15

For more info email
education@bodypoliticdance.com
or call 07781905851

www.bodypoliticdance.com



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.



Supported by



JOIN US ...

RAF Air Cadets recruiting now!



If you love aircraft, action and adventure, then the Air Cadets is for you. The Air Cadets is a UK-wide cadet force sponsored by the Royal Air Force. As a cadet, you'll get the chance to do things that others only dream about such as adventurous training, camps, drill and real flight experience.

So if you're aged 12* - 17 and you're looking for a challenge call 0345 600 6601 or log on to www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets

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

2210 (Cowley) Sqn
Sandy Lane West, OX4 6LD

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



the next generation



For more information about joining the Air Cadets call:

0345 600 6601

or go to

www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets

Make new friends
Have fun
Earn BTECs



- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- DELICIOUS FOOD
- ACTIVITIES FOR ALL

SATURDAY, 4th 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

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 T: 01442 873150

TRY LOVE RUGBY

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

CONTACT GIRLSRUGBY@OXFORDHARLEQUINS.ORG

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

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

What's on offer:

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

When is it:

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

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

Book now and join the adventure!
www.scoutadventures.org.uk/events
activeadventures@scoutadventures.org.uk
Scout Adventures Youlbury, Boars Hill, Oxford OX1 5HD

Scout Adventures is owned and operated by The Scout Association. Reg Charity number 204470 (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
- 01865 711267
- connectionsupport.org.uk

Drop-in details:

Visit our website to download the referral form

Connection Support

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN LATIN?

OXFORD LATIN TEACHING SCHEME
2026—2028

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

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

FREE PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM POP-UP SHOP

OXFORD HUB

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

Open every Monday from 12th January 12-2PM

Templers Square Shopping Centre

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT KYLIE 07707918532
KYLIE@OXFORDHUB.ORG

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

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

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