

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 13th March 2026 | Issue 22

Dear Families,

We began the week reflecting on the Gospel story of the woman at the well, which we also linked to International Women's Day in our assemblies. In this encounter, Jesus speaks with someone who society had overlooked and reminds us that dignity, worth and voice belong to everyone. The story invites us to notice the people around us, to listen carefully, and to recognise that transformation often begins through simple human encounters. It was a powerful reminder that each of us has the capacity to see and uplift others.

This week we have also been delighted to move into the second half of our Greyfriars Literary Festival, with a wide range of joyful opportunities to celebrate books, stories and imagination. I am extremely grateful to the staff team who put such care and energy into making this happen for our students. Reading opens worlds, sparks curiosity and builds empathy, and it has been wonderful to see students engaging so enthusiastically with the festival activities.

You will also see details in this newsletter of our recent pilgrimage to Rome. It was a truly special journey for our students. Out of this, came an additional memorable moment when a couple from Spain phoned the school simply to tell us how impressed they had been by our students during the visit as they had been sitting next to them at the Vatican. They described them as engaged, respectful and deeply attentive in the most reverent moments. It was a joyful call to receive and a wonderful affirmation of what we hope for all our students: that they develop not only a personal sense of faith and purpose, but also an understanding of the positive impact they can have as part of a wider community. A great example of flourishing individually and collectively!

This morning we also held a beautiful and reflective reconciliation service in school. It was wonderfully attended and very thoughtfully organised, with our Sixth Form Catholic Life Ambassadors supporting the logistics and helping students move respectfully between lessons. Moments like this allow us to pause during Lent and reflect on how we grow, repair relationships and renew ourselves. Tomorrow, I am looking forward to seeing our students take part in the annual Mock Trial competition at the Magistrates' Court. It is always a fantastic opportunity for students to demonstrate confidence, teamwork and the Greyfriars spirit in action.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our school community. I wish you all a restful weekend (and let us hope the winter winds finally begin to blow away).

With very best wishes
Lyndsey Caldwell
Headteacher

WHAT IS GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ME THIS WEEK?

Gospel - John 4 : 5 - 42 (Shorter version)



⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.). ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not

associate with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" ¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water..." ³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world."

Reflection

John 4:5-42 tells the story of Jesus meeting a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well in Sychar. Breaking social norms, he asks her for water, reveals her past, and offers "living water" (eternal life). The woman realises he is a prophet/Messiah, tells her town, and many Samaritans believe in him.

Prayer from CAFOD's daily Lent calendar

*God of all people, help us to live faithfully,
growing in love for you and our neighbours,
both near and far.
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 – Pilgrims of Hope Trip to Rome | Mr Greer

We have returned this week from a wonderful pilgrimage to Rome. 35 students and 4 staff travelled to Rome for four days last week, taking advantage of our time by doing the MOST we possibly could! The students were incredible, as they endured with minimal complaint a large amount walking: 75km total over the four days.



On our first day, we walked to the tomb of Pope Francis in the Papal Basilica of St. Maria Maggiore. Students loved getting to see this tomb, the relic of the Holy Crib where Jesus was born, and plenty of ancient Roman sights at sunset along the way. As their teacher, it was powerful for me to see this first moment of awe, noticing how they were captivated by the majestic ceilings of the Church, discovering the streets of Rome for the first time, and spending time in reverent prayer in one of the most beautiful churches in the world.

Our second day was our big day: we woke up at 6am for an audience with Pope Leo XIV. We were near the front of the crowd and were lucky enough to get seats (our arrival 2 hours before it started helped with this). Pope Leo waved to us from the "Popemobile" and then we heard him address us with a talk on the importance of divinity at work in our world right now. Our students took great pride in this event as the name of our school was called over loud speakers at the Vatican: we cheered loudly when we heard Greyfriars! It was also precious to see the amount of religious objects students brought to be blessed by the Pope. Rosaries, necklaces, and icons from grandmothers, brothers, aunties, parents, etc. were laid out across students hands as they sought to bring blessings back home: it was certainly a powerful moment and I'm so grateful that the students could experience something so notable in the lives of their families as a whole. The eagerness of the students was so exemplary that the couple sitting in front of us called the school this week (from their holiday in Spain!) to send compliments to the students and staff. They were so moved by the behaviour of the students and their eagerness to see the Pope that it gave them real hope for future generations in the Church: a "credit to our school" as they put it.



GENERAL NOTICES



After the audience, students spent time getting their first Italian lunch and exploring the Vatican museums. The highlight was the Sistine Chapel, as we study *The Creation of Adam* and *The Last Judgement* in GCSE RE. Again, students were in awe over the artwork that we saw. After visiting St. Peter's Basilica, we took the public metro over to dinner and then walked to the Trevi Fountain. Kevin used his new Italian skills to try to get us in early, and we then enjoyed time taking pictures and reminiscing over the day that we



had experienced. After a lovely moonlit walk through Rome we arrived back at the hostel close to midnight: a full day out on our feet seeing the world!

On Thursday, we had our Ancient Rome day, with the first stop being the Colosseum. Students marvelled at this ancient wonder before we headed to the nearby Basilica of San Clemente to see another artwork that we study for GCSE. After lunch, we explored the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill before heading back to the hostel for a much needed rest. A group of our older students attended mass with me in Trastevere when returned, and it was a reverent experience that many said they'd never forget.



On the final day, a group of students joined me for running club at 6:30 where we set off to the Papal Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls. Here we saw the shrine of St. Paul's burial site! We then reunited with the rest of our group, stopped by the Pantheon, one of the oldest churches in Rome, before setting off for some last minute shopping, gelato, and food. We concluded the pilgrimage on the Spanish steps as each student received a medallion marking the Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope.

This experience was one to treasure for many years to come. Every student showed respect, love, and reverence that was beyond exemplary for any pilgrim. As staff, we are so grateful for the "rose, bud, and thorn" that we did every night: what students enjoyed most about the day, least about the day, and what they were looking forward to. We loved getting to have this time of walking around with them, seeing the world through their eyes, as they encountered God in history, in art, and in the heart of the Catholic Church. Each person returned to Oxford transformed by the experience, and I can't thank the students, parents, and staff enough for what they gave to make this trip possible. It was so worth it!



GENERAL NOTICES

SCIENCE FAIR!

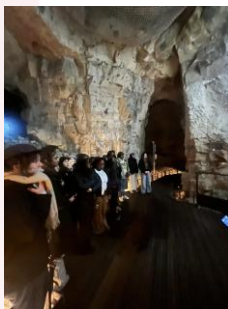
**PLEASE JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY
THE 18TH MARCH 2026 AT 4PM TO
— CELEBRATE SCIENCE WEEK WITH —
GREYFRIARS
CATHOLIC SCHOOL!!!**

GENERAL NOTICES

Battlefields Belgium Trip: A Journey of Remembrance | Miss Nash

Students recently took part in a powerful and memorable three-day Battlefields Trip to Belgium and Northern France, combining historical learning with reflection and prayer.

On Day 1, students travelled to the iconic Tyne Cot Cemetery, where they took part in an act of collective worship led by Mr Dunne and Mr Derrick. Through prayer and readings of *In Flanders Fields* and *Dulce et Decorum Est*, students reflected on the sacrifice of those who fought in the First World War. The day ended with the unforgettable Last Post Ceremony in Ypres, where the sound of the bugles and the solemn military parade created a moving moment of remembrance.



Day 2 began with a walk through the beautiful medieval town of Ypres before visiting Beaumont-Hamel, where students explored original battlefields and trenches. Mr Derrick led a reflective reading of the poem *Mud*, highlighting the harsh realities faced by soldiers. Later, students descended 20 metres underground to explore the Wellington Tunnels in Arras, learning about the resilience, camaraderie and faith of soldiers who once sheltered there. The day concluded at the Vimy Memorial, where Catholic Life Ambassadors Daniel, David, Kevin and Isabelle laid the Greyfriars wreath and led a prayer as the sun set. It was a beautiful and thoughtful moment that captured the spirit of the trip: remembrance, gratitude and reflection



On Day 3, students visited the Hoge Crater Museum, exploring a replica trench and viewing artefacts from the First World War. This engaging experience brought their learning to life and provided a fitting end to an inspiring trip.

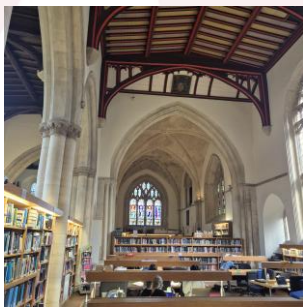
The visit gave students a meaningful opportunity to remember those who sacrificed so much, while reflecting on courage, service and the enduring strength of faith.



GENERAL NOTICES

Oxford Maths team Challenge 2026 | Mr Secker

Last week it was the "Oxford Maths Team Challenge" hosted by the Oxford University Maths Society. This was an A level maths competition with over 60 schools competing. Our fantastic four tackled the incredibly challenging problems with great enthusiasm and managed to solve lots of the problems in the four rounds. After doing four hours of very hard maths, they then had a tour of St Edmunds College, which gave a real insight into the Oxford University experience. The day finished with a really interesting lecture from Robin Wilson on Euler's famous equation.



They had a fantastic day and competed brilliantly as a team – well done!



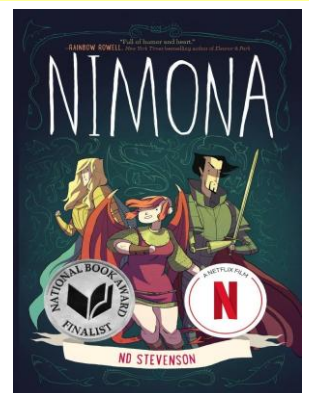
Congratulations!

To Esmé, who participated in a dance competition last weekend – she went home with 7 trophies! Her achievements included coming second in her slow dance and winning both her Street Dance Solos and Top of Tops (where all winners in her grade dance against each other).

Well done Esmé and keeeep dancing!

Weekly Book review by Lian

Metal! A brilliantly stylised graphic novel. It's a breath of fresh air to be completely honest as it allows exploration of relationships as well as perspectives. It puts forward great insight into complexities of love but also moral codes and the values of personality - how characters act differently and their contrasts or similarities between each other. As you follow through there'll be comedic moments but also a burning sense of intrigue or perhaps an anxious excitement to see if things really will play out for the better or if history would once again repeat itself universe-wise.



I actually had seen the source material when it was on Tumblr not when originally posted but I had seen where this novel took root and it is just exhilarating to see its success in book and film form. The story is powerful and I imagine it to help people think just a little differently and understand matters of both perspective and nuance but also how media or others will push you to a certain opinion. But anyways the graphic novel is absolutely amazing in my opinion and is definitely worth a read.

GENERAL NOTICES

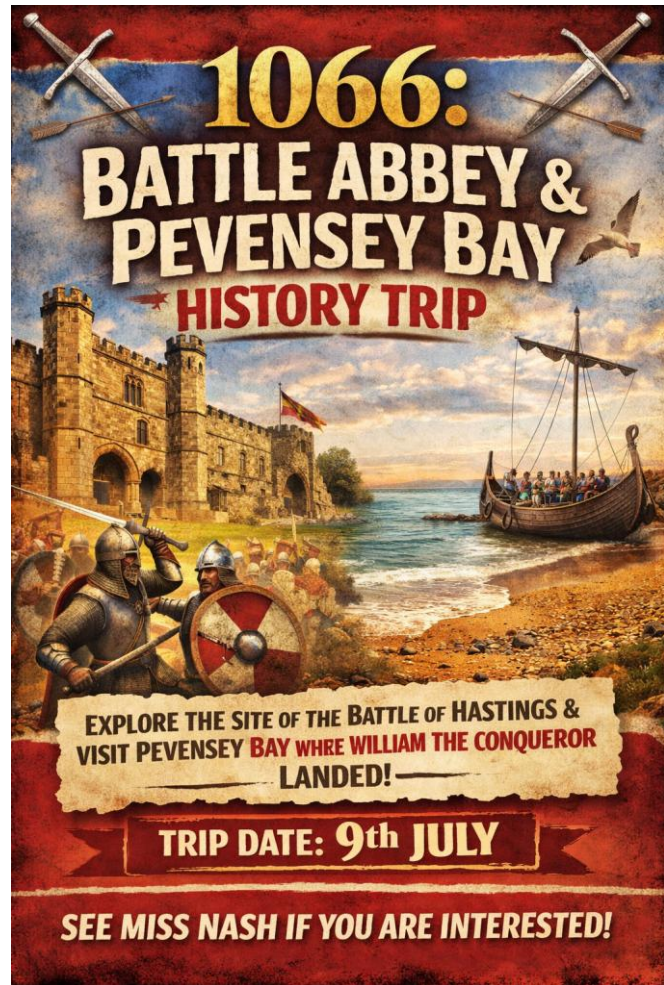
Message for Year 7 | Mr Cunningham

Over the course of this term as a school we have been focussing on transitions, around the school, from line up and between classes. I have been so impressed with the way that year 7 have demonstrated how they know and follow the routines of the school, and special mentions to 7GKE and 7BN, who have nailed consistently lining up in alphabetical order! This helps students have consistency for each lesson and helps them create an environment where they can learn successfully!

In our assembly this week we talked about the importance of small choices and the difference they can make to the world. We discussed the message of reserving judgement through one of my favourite books, The Great Gatsby, and well done to Nicolas and Rida for identifying the book so quickly!

In our achievement point league this week, 7ALW have made their way to the top with 354 points, led by Elia and Jude with 31, Nicolas with 25 and Tanaka with 24!

7ALW	354
7BN	213
7GKE	120
7KR	116



Elia	31
Jude	31
Nicolas	25
Tanaka	24
Gerald	22
Alyssa	22
Alfie	20
Ishyne	19
Mia	17

GENERAL NOTICES

Library News | Miss Brett

Hello, happy readers!

As promised, it's an update in pictures this week! Although we still have some events left in our festival, we have enjoyed it immensely so far.

Here are some highlights:



Drawing Aslan... same teacher, same sample picture, different results. It's a perfect representation and CELEBRATION(!) of how different we are in our perception of the world around us. They are all different, and all GORGEOUS!



We also had fantastic talks, workshops, from Suzi Feay's tips on how to be a better writer, Deborah Hyde's dissection of the folk story of green children, to Stephen Law's big question: Are you being brainwashed? Let's not forget the fun, FUN lunchtime activities by our wonderful staff!



Blackout poetry – the students did an amazing job!



Thank you cards made by our Sixth Form Students during their work experience in the library. They are gorgeous!



GENERAL NOTICES

Library News Continued...

All in all, we've had a great time celebrating reading!

Now, for the leader board

Have a READilicious weekend!

TERM 4 WEEK 3				
	Reading Champ		Tutor Group Reading Championship	
1	Sahas	66	8BMO	91%
2	Phoebe	47	8TTO	89%
3	Ayesha J.	31	7KR	82%
4	Seerat, Martyna	14	7BN	76%
5	Iliam, Victoria A.	11	7GKE	75%

Sixth Form News | Ms McCabe

Literary Festival Talk

Sixth Form students had the privilege of listening to Sarah Brakebill-Hacke on Monday as part of our Literary Festival. Sarah, a former student of Yale and Cambridge and currently studying at Oxford, spoke to students about her challenges at a young age and her determination to overcome barriers to education. Her message to our Y12 students was clear - aim high and do not let anything stand in your way! The students had lots of questions to ask and left feeling motivated and inspired.

Sprint Finish Assembly

Y13 had a special assembly on Wednesday about using their time well in these final weeks before the exams. We shared the message of the importance of using the hours between lessons for study and revision. Revision should be a daily activity at the stage of the course. We also repeated the message that attendance is compulsory for every lesson. It is in these lessons that teachers will be getting students to work hard on consolidating what they know and improving what they can do. More details about the exams, including the Y13 exam timetable, will be sent out next week.

ESS Gardening

Our wonderful Sixth Form Environmental Society, ESS, have been busy maintaining our Sixth Form garden. Sadika, Ayesha, Shania, and Atiya have been out in the wind and rain, clearing and improving areas in this outdoor space. Not only that, they are frequently volunteering to do litter picking around the site and out in the local area. They are a brilliant example of student leadership and making an active contribution to their environment.

UCAS trip

Today is the last day to sign up for the UCAS trip on Monday 23rd March. Students can sign up through ParentPay. This trip is funded for any bursary students but we still need consent through ParentPay. It is a really valuable day for all students, especially those looking to apply to university next year.

GENERAL NOTICES

Message for Year 8 and Year 9 | Mrs Reddy

Exciting times ahead for our Y9 students! Choosing GCSE options is an important milestone for Year 9 students. Attending the Options Evening next week, **Thursday 19th March at 6pm**, will help both students and caregivers understand the subjects available and how these choices can shape future pathways. It's a valuable opportunity to ask questions, meet teachers, and learn about the expectations for Key Stage 4.

The following week, students will take part in taster sessions where subject teachers will explain course content and the requirements needed to succeed in their GCSEs. Being involved in this process helps caregivers support and guide their child, ensuring choices reflect interests, strengths, and future aspirations. We look forward to seeing you next week.

Students leading the way

Year 8	Year 9
Leelan	Kevin
Haider	John
Anne-Marie	Lucas
Ganuli	Alfie
Akosua	Sahas
Bela	Damir
Emily R	Holy-Karen
Ephraim	Morizo
Alex A	Luciano
Marietta	Kosmos

Sparx Maths **WEEK 22**

Total hours spent on Sparx this year

7,836hrs

Number of questions answered correctly

580,558

XP Champions THIS YEAR | 13/03/26

Name	Year	Total XP
Miu Miu M	8	41,451
Nita C	11	32,953
Seerat S	7	31,640
Aseda K	7	29,329
Samayrah K	10	28,212
Rayan P	7	27,800
Nora C	11	27,456
Gauendicio F	9	27,003
Sampson O	8	26,570
Aman A	9	26,244

XP Champions for LAST WEEK

Name	Year	Total XP
Kanchan L	12	2,181
Hajera S	12	1,181
Nora C	11	2,675
Nita C	11	2,545
Phoebe L	10	4,240
Ana Paula C	10	1,909
Aman A	9	2,571
Fina K	9	2,288
Sampson O	8	7,688
Miu Miu M	8	2,557
Natan L	7	2,175
Bella H	7	2,045

A massive shout out to Yulanda for organising a gift (from the form group) using her creative skills for Ms Watkins who has just started her maternity leave. We will miss you Ms Watkins!



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

Stars Pathway Weekly Highlights | Mr Jubin

From Pizzas to Peasant Revolts: A Week to Remember

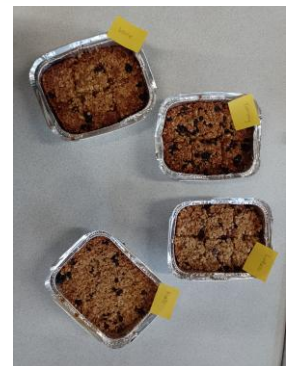
It has been an exciting and eventful week in the classroom, with pupils diving into a wide range of subjects, activities and creative challenges.

In Geography, pupils have been exploring the different climatic zones of the Earth. From the scorching regions around the equator to the icy extremes near the poles, they have been discovering how temperature, sunlight and location shape the environments we live in. The discussions sparked plenty of curiosity about how people and animals adapt to life in such dramatically different parts of the world.

History lessons transported pupils back to medieval England as they learned about the dramatic events of the Peasants' Revolt. Many were astonished to discover that King Richard II was only fourteen years old at the time he faced the uprising. The idea of a teenager dealing with such enormous political turmoil led to lively discussions.

Creativity took centre stage in Drama, where pupils stepped into the shoes of their favourite characters from the popular series *Stranger Things*. The performances were full of energy, imagination and plenty of dramatic flair, and pupils clearly relished the chance to bring these iconic characters to life.

Meanwhile, Food Technology proved to be both delicious and productive. Pupils rolled up their sleeves to make their own pizzas and baked flapjacks. The classroom was filled with the unmistakable aroma of freshly baked treats, making it one of the most eagerly anticipated lessons of the week.



In Life Skills, pupils enjoyed a St Patrick's Day-themed multiplication colour-by-number activity. By solving multiplication questions, they revealed a festive picture through colouring, combining numeracy practice with creativity in a fun and engaging way.

RE lessons focused on places of worship, particularly mosques, and the significance of prayer and holiness within the Islamic faith. Pupils also explored the importance of the holy month of Ramadan, learning about its spiritual meaning and the practices observed by Muslims during this period.

All in all, it has been a week full of discovery, creativity and enthusiasm—proof that learning can be as exciting as it is **rewarding**.

GENERAL NOTICES



Greyfriars Catholic School
Invites you to a

FREE BREAKFAST!

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

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

 family
action

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

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

School Lunch Accounts

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

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



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

Astroturf

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

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

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

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

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



GENERAL NOTICES

Friends of Greyfriars (PTA)

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

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

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

5 Ways to Well-being

Click on the logo to find out more.



CONNECT TALK & LISTEN, BE THERE, FEEL CONNECTED
BE ACTIVE DO WHAT YOU CAN, ENJOY WHAT YOU DO, MOVE YOUR HOOD
TAKE NOTICE REMEMBER THE SIMPLE THINGS THAT GIVE YOU JOY
KEEP LEARNING EMBRACE NEW EXPERIENCES, SEE OPPORTUNITIES, SURPRISE YOURSELF
Give Your time, your words, your presence

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

free period products



In partnership with hey girls...

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Free School Meals

Are you entitled?

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

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

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

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

GENERAL NOTICES

Dates for your Diary

- 06 – 15 March | British Science Week
17 – 20 March | Curiosity Cube
17 March | Model UN General Assembly Trip to OHS
18 March | Battle the Bugs Trip
18 March | Year 10 CareersFest at the Kassam
18 March | GFCS Science Fair
19 March | Oxford Young Sports Leaders – Day 3
19 March | Year 9 Options Evening
20 March | Into University Year 10 Business in Focus Trip

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



Falcon Boat Club: a community club for all



Discover the joy of rowing on the River Thames in Oxford

LEARN TO ROW IN 2026

Welcoming, fun and supportive for beginners. No previous experience or fitness level is needed - just a willingness to give it a go!

Next course starts
APRIL

Sign up now for a Weekend Taster Session

Discounted course spaces available for those in financial hardship, including those on Universal Credit and low-incomes.

REGISTER NOW



Falcon Boat Club: Learn to Row on your Doorstep
We've just launched registration for our next Learn to Row course, designed specifically to be welcoming, supportive and accessible for beginners. No previous experience or fitness level is needed – just a willingness to give it a go.
Rowing is a brilliant way to build confidence, improve physical and mental wellbeing, and connect with others in a safe and encouraging environment. We know many community groups are looking for inclusive activities where beginners feel comfortable trying something new, and we're committed to making this course as open and supportive as possible.

After the Learn to Row course, many go on to join the Women's or Men's Development Squads, a great supportive and safe environment to continue to learn new skills.

The next course runs primarily at weekends over 5-6 weeks, and starts in April with the option of a taster session before committing to the full course (Running Sat 4th & Sun 5th April and Sat 11th & Sun 12th April) [Register here.](#)

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 from 3:30–7:30pm.**

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>



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.

AGN

Kenford.

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

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

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
12th January
12-2PM
Templers Square Shopping
Centre



FOR MORE INFO CONTACT KYLIE 07707918532
KYLIE@OXFORDHUB.ORG

MORE
7th-8th March
BIG
Open Weekend
Try our facilities
for FREE



let's do
MORE

Free Family Activities & FREE Swimming Lessons – 7th & 8th March

Families across Oxford are invited to the Big Open Weekend on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th March at Leys Pools & Leisure Centre, Ferry Leisure Centre and Barton Leisure Centre.

As part of the weekend, we're offering **FREE swimming lessons for children of all ages and abilities**.

Whether it's your child's very first time in the pool, they're building water confidence, or they're ready to improve their technique and progress to the next level, our friendly, qualified instructors are here to help.

Our lessons are delivered in a fun, safe and supportive environment, with a clear progressive pathway to help every child grow in confidence and ability at their own pace.

This is a fantastic opportunity to experience our swim programme at no cost and see how we can support your child's swimming journey.

Find out more and book here:
 • Leys Pools & Leisure Centre – <https://www.oxfordcityleisure.com/leys-pools-leisure-centre/>
 • Ferry Leisure Centre – <https://www.oxfordcityleisure.com/ferry-leisure-centre/>
 • Barton Leisure Centre – <https://www.oxfordcityleisure.com/barton-leisure-centre/>

Beyond the Classroom
TRINITY COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Trinity College Beyond the Classroom (BTC) Online Academic Enrichment Programme is starting again on Tuesdays from 10 March at 4:30pm, until 7 July 2026!!

Registrations for 2026 are now OPEN!
Our online after-school academic enrichment programme in 2026 will feature a new series of mini lectures. Explore taster sessions, academic skills talks and advice about preparing for university study.

A certificate of participation from Trinity College, Oxford, for those attending 7 or more sessions!


Open to all students in Year 7-12 in a state school.

Register for the programme via this link: [Trinity Beyond the Classroom 2026](#). Or the QR Code below

More details can be found on our website which will be updated as [themes for the programme](#). Once you have registered, we will contact you 24 hrs prior to the start of each session with the joining details.

BTC Year 12 Trinity College Visit Days

If you are now in Year 12, attend a state school and are seriously considering applying to study one of the [19 courses](#), Trinity College admits for to study at the University of Oxford, when you register for the standard online programme, you can also express an interest in a place on one of our BTCR Trinity College Visit Days (date tbc)

SENse Learning is running six workshops, designed to support parents and carers with practical guidance, up-to-date information, and strategies that can be used at home. The sessions are a great way to learn, build understanding, and gain confidence in supporting your child's development and wellbeing.

Workshop topics include:

- 28th Jan | Parenting styles and attachment [Book here](#)
- 11th Feb | Brain development in children and young people [Book here](#)
- 25th Feb | Self-regulation and sleep [Book Here](#)
- 11th Mar | Online safety [Book here](#)
- 25th Mar | Understanding young people's mental health [Book here](#)

Booking information

All workshops are free to attend and will be delivered online
 Tickets can be booked via Eventbrite
 Places are limited, so we encourage early booking


Full details of each session, including dates and times, are available on the Eventbrite booking page

DR.EAM ASPIRE

ARE YOU A YEAR 10-12 STUDENT
CONSIDERING A CAREER IN HEALTHCARE?


ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ADVICE FROM HEALTHCARE
PROFESSIONALS?

Saturday 14th March 2026
10AM - 3:30PM
Online - Zoom Webinar



Join our healthcare conference for Year 10-12 students!

- ✓ Talks from surgeons, physiotherapists, dentists, and many more healthcare professionals
- ✓ Guidance on the university application process & work experience

 **BWAMS** Sign up at: <https://gck.fm/cjria>

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

EASTER & SUMMER 2026

The WOW Camp

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

STEM. Creativity. Physical Play
All in one camp

HMRC TAX-FREE CHILD CARE ACCEPTED

www.nextthing.education

SCAN TO BOOK!

EASTER & SUMMER CAMPS

Tech-powered camps, packed with **WOW** experiences!

Example camp activities

Camps run 9 am - 4 pm

ROBOT LAB	LEGO ENGINEERING	ELECTRIC INVENTIONS	3D CREATIONS	ANIMATION
COOL CIRCUITS	CRAZY CODING	MOVIE MAKING	MINECRAFT REDSTONE	VIRTUAL REALITY

NEW FOR EASTER - WOW EXPERIENCES

INFLATABLES	ANIMALS	STREET DANCE	SCIENCE	LASER TAG
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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

OXFORDSHIRE PARENT CARERS FORUM
A Voice for Parent Carers in Oxfordshire

CAMHS
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

WEDNESDAY WEBINAR SERIES

Wednesdays | 12:00-1:30 PM

To register for a webinar visit: <https://oxpcf.org.uk/webinars>

- 24 September 2025
What to Expect from the CAMHS: NDC (Neurodevelopmental Conditions) Service
- 22 October 2025
Supporting family member's mental health through compassion
- 26 November 2025
Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA)
- 17 December 2025
Autistic Burnout
- 28 January 2026
Demand Avoidance
- 25 February 2026
Understanding, preventing, and supporting meltdowns
- 25 March 2026
Support in the community for young adults (post-18)

These sessions, presented in partnership with CAMHS, aim to provide insights, expert guidance, and discussions on key topics related to SEND.
To learn more or register for a webinar please visit: oxpcf.org.uk/webinars

ACTIVE ADVENTURES
RESIDENT CLUB

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 204670 (England and Wales). Registered address: The Scout Association, 21 Wellington Park, Dorking, Surrey, England GU24 0NF.

COMMUNITY FUND, OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, youth ambition, OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

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

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

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

PLUS ROCK CLIMBING (PREBOOK ONLY)

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

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

CALL LYDIA ON 07483007103
OR JEN ON 07483010739

FOR ROCK CLIMBING BOOKINGS EMAIL: LEYSYOUTHUB@OXFORD.GOV.UK

Are you at risk of losing your home?

We can help you to avoid eviction

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

Get in touch

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

Drop-in details:

Visit our website to download the referral form

Connection Support

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



FREE online talk by
Jane Keyworth

FACE family Advice Lead Facilitator

Decreasing Depression

23rd April 7-8pm



Book online

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Parents - Live Talks page

FACE March 2026 Timetable	
All 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 (excluding Free Talk)	
Improving Family Communication	2 Mar 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	2 Mar 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	3 Mar 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	3 Mar 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	9 Mar 10am
Understanding Anger	9 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	10 Mar 10am
Facing Defiance	10 Mar 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	16 Mar 10am
Anxiety Explained	16 Mar 7pm
Introduction to OCD	17 Mar 10am
What is ACT	17 Mar 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	23 Mar 10am
Decreasing Depression	23 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	24 Mar 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	24 Mar 7pm
FREE Anxiety Based School Avoidance	26 Mar 7-8pm

PARENT WEBINAR

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

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SESSIONS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

SUBJECTS INCLUDE

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

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

CALLING ALL YEAR 11 - YEAR 13

SOCIAL FOOTBALL DURING YOUR EXAMS!

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

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

Free Workshops for Parents at Oxford Hub

Oxford Hub
Oxford Hub at Windale School
Windale Ave, Oxford OX4 6JD

Date and Time	Suitable for	Workshop
Wednesday 25/2/26 13:00 - 14:30	Parents/Carers of primary school age children	Emotional Regulation Understand what is meant by emotional regulation and introduce Zones of Regulation as a tool to support your child.
Wednesday 4/3/26 13:00 - 14:30	Parents/Carers of primary school age children	Developing Resilience Understand what resilience is and what factors influence a child's ability to be resilient and develop tools to support your child to develop resilience.
Wednesday 11/3/26 13:00 - 14:30	Parents/Carers of primary school age children	Managing Meltdowns Effectively Find out about the connection between the senses and meltdowns and developing strategies to support your child with meltdowns.
Wednesday 18/3/26 13:00 - 14:30	Parents/Carers of nursery age children	Developing Communication With Your Child Understanding benchmarks and strategies to support the development of Speech, Language and Communication at home.
Wednesday 25/3/26 13:00 - 14:30	Parents/Carers of nursery age children	Early Maths for Parents Gain understanding of the areas of maths that are taught in Reception and learn strategies and activities to support your child's enjoyment and learning of maths.

To enroll, contact Penelope Lea (Family Learning Tutor)
penelope.lea@abingdon-witney.ac.uk
 These sessions are fully funded so are free to families living in Oxfordshire (Ts and Cs apply).

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:

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

YOU MOVE